SATURDAY
January 17, 2026

BENGALURU
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Programme
Lady Andal School Premises, Chennai

Day 01
Saturday, January 17, 2026

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SIR MUTHA CONCERT HALL
LADY ANDAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI

9.30 am to 9.45 am	**Inauguration**
9.50 am to 10.40 am	**Why The Constitution Matters** Former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud in conversation with N. Ravi
10.45 am to 11.35 am	**The Undying Light: A Personal History of Independent India** Gopalkrishna Gandhi in conversation with David Davidar
11.35 am to 11.45 am	**BREAK**
11.45 am to 12.35 pm	**The Meaning of (Almost) All Things** A.C. Grayling in conversation with Chandan Gowda
12.40 pm to 1.30 pm	**Skewed Perception: Fighting Bias in Journalism** N. Ram, Rukmini S., and Samanth Subramanian in conversation with Varghese K. George.
1.30 pm to 2.00 pm	**BREAK**
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm	**Unquiet Minds: A Generation in Crisis Conversations on building a better world for our children** Amit Bhatt, Avira Bhatt, and Shelja Sen in conversation with Niharika Kaul Bhattacharya
3.05 pm to 3.55 pm	**India's Path to Development** Arvind Subramanian and Devesh Kapur in conversation with Narendar Pani
3.55 pm to 4.05 pm	**BREAK**
4.05 pm to 4.55 pm	**Days and Nights at the Morisaki Bookshop** Satoshi Yagisawa in conversation with Rachna Singh Davidar
5.00 pm to 6.00 pm	**The Tamils by Nirmala Lakshman: A Theatrical Reading** Artists: Anita Ratnam, Brahadeeshwar C. Chandilya, Nandhini Subbulakshmi, Revathy Kumar, Sarvesh Sridhar, and Tehzeeb Katari Edited and Directed by Prasanna Ramaswamy
6.05 pm to 6.55 pm	**We, The People of India: Decoding a Nation's Symbols** T.M. Krishna in conversation with Suhrith Parthasarathy

THE HINDU PAVILION
LADY ANDAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI

9.45 am to 10.35 am	**How to Reclaim India aka Bharat** Ashutosh and Sobhana K. Nair in conversation with Ziya us Salam
10.40 am to 11.30 am	**The Joys and Challenges of Translating Imayam** Imayam and Prabha Sridevan in conversation with Kavitha Muralidharan (Tamil)
11.35 am to 12.20 pm	**In the Heart of The Country** Ghazala Wahab in conversation with Varghese K. George
12.25 pm to 1.25 pm	**Diasporic Narratives of Relocation and Belonging** Amrita Shah, Saras Manickam, and Viji Krishnamoorthy in conversation with Radha Hegde
1.25 pm to 2.00 pm	**BREAK**
2.00 pm to 2.45 pm	**Women, Know Your Rights** Manasi Chaudhuri in conversation with Vidya Singh
2.50 pm to 3.35 pm	**Supercop!** Madhukar Zende in conversation with K.C. Vijaya Kumar
3.40 pm to 4.40 pm	**Translation: The Bridge Over Lives and Landscapes** Chandan Gowda, Gowri Ramnarayan, and Vanamala Viswanatha in conversation with Mini Krishnan
4.45 pm to 5.30 pm	**A Thousand Loves: Ways of Being Polyamorous** Arundhati Ghosh in conversation with Priya Ramani
5.35 pm to 6.25 pm	**Enter the Arena** Appupen and Perumal Murugan in conversation with Ramya Kannan (Bilingual)

PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

THE HINDU SHOWPLACE
LADY ANDAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI

10.00 am to 10.50 am	**In Bad Faith: Violence Against Women** Neige Sinno in conversation with Priya Ramani
11.00 am to 11.45 am	**Nowhere People** Manoranjan Byapari in conversation with Minakshi Thakur
12.00 noon to 12.50 pm	**Life's Fleeting Moments: Poems and Songs** Ravi Shankar Etteth
12.50 pm to 2.00 pm	**BREAK**
2.00 pm to 2.50 pm	**Love, Loss and Healing** Andaleeb Wajid in conversation with Soma Basu
3.00 pm to 3.50 pm	**A Woman of No Consequence: Memory, Letters and Resistance in Madras** Kalpana Karunakaran in conversation with Sreemathi Ramnath
4.00 pm to 5.00 pm	**Footnotes from the Mahabharata** K. Srilata in conversation with Nikhila Kesavan. Indrani Krishnaier, Geetha Lakshman, Smrithi Parameswar, and Mrithula Chetlur from The Madras Players will present a dramatised reading of excerpts from the book.

WORKSHOPS

GROUND FLOOR, ANNEXE BUILDING

10.30 am to 12.30 pm	**Beyond the Body: The philosophy of fitness and wholesome living** Priti Chawla

LADY ANDAL SEMINAR HALL

10.30 am to 11.30 am & 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm	**Owning Your Digital Self in the AI Era** Shantanu Tungare
12.30 pm to 1.30 pm	**The Many Lives of the Lotus: Between Sacred History and Contemporary Claims** Sharan Apparao

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INTERIM RELIEF

Jharkhand High Court stays action against ED

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STIFLED DISSENT

Iran protest movement subsides after crackdown

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'AI ERA'

HC order disqualifying Mukul Roy put on hold

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A CLIMATE OF FEAR

In Jharkhand, a tusker on a rampage

Twenty killed as villages remain panic-stricken

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 13

ON A ROLL

Royal Challengers register third win

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

'Central prison on the brink of systemic failure'

BENGALURU
The prison reform committee submitted its findings to Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Wednesday, warning that the central prison is on the brink of systemic failure. » PAGE 7

Discussions on leadership private, says DKS

BENGALURU
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar stated that discussions regarding the Chief Minister's post remain a private matter involving himself, the Chief Minister, and the high command, and is not an appropriate issue for public disclosure.» PAGE 10

Budget: Tackling fiscal pressure a challenging task

BENGALURU
As Karnataka gears up for its 2026-27 Budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah faces the challenging task of addressing the State's widening fiscal pressures.» PAGE 10

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE J6

Highest annual spike saw 44,000 start-ups added last year: Modi

Prime Minister says Startup India mission has become a 'revolution,' with the country becoming the third-largest start-up ecosystem globally

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nearly 44,000 start-ups registered with the government in 2025, the highest annual addition since Startup India was launched, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday at an event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the scheme.

Launched on January 16, 2016, the flagship initiative seeks to foster innovation, promote entrepreneurship, and enable investment-driven growth.

Looking up: Narendra Modi visits an exhibition during an event marking a decade of Startup India, in New Delhi, on Friday. ANI

The biggest jump

"I'm even more pleased to see that the momentum of Startup India is steadily increasing," Mr. Modi said. "Today's start-ups are becoming unicorns, unicorns are launching their IPOs, and creating more and more jobs. Last year alone, in 2025, nearly 44,000 new start-ups were registered. This is the biggest jump in any single year since the launch of Startup India."

He said that the Startup India mission has become a "revolution" in India, with the country taking its position as the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world.

"Ten years ago, there were fewer than 500 start-ups in the country; today, that number has grown to over 200,000," Mr. Modi said. "In 2014, India had only four unicorns; today, there are nearly 125 active unicorns in India... These figures bear witness to how our start-ups are driving the ecosystem, innovation, and growth."

Mr. Modi also talked about how the perception of risk-taking has changed in the country, becoming more widely accepted and even respected.

"Earlier, risk-taking was discouraged in the country, but today, risk-taking has become mainstream," Mr. Modi said, adding, "Those who think beyond monthly salary are not only accepted but respected. Risk-taking ideas, which people once considered fringe, are now becoming fashionable."

Mr. Modi said that more than ₹25,000 crore has been invested through the Fund of Funds for start-ups that had been created by the government.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

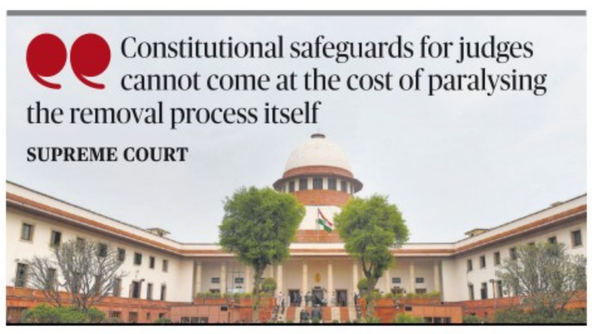
SC rejects Justice Varma's challenge to formation of House inquiry panel

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday rejected a petition by Justice Yashwant Varma challenging the Lok Sabha Speaker's constitution of a committee to inquire into a motion for his removal, underscoring that safeguards for judges cannot paralyse the removal process.

The court said accepting the Allahabad High Court judge's interpretation of the Judges (Inquiry) Act would result in a "disabling consequence", pushing Members of Parliament back to square one.

> Constitutional safeguards for judges cannot come at the cost of paralysing the removal process itself
>
> SUPREME COURT



Justice Varma is facing an inquiry for misbehaviour after sacks of half-burnt currency were allegedly found at his official residential premises after a blaze on the night of March 14, 2025. He was then a judge in the Delhi High Court. "Constitutional safeguards for judges cannot come at the cost of paralysing the removal process itself, a Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and S.C. Sharma observed in a 60-page judgment.

A balance has to be struck between the protection afforded to the judiciary and the effective functioning of the mechanism for removal of a judge triggered by the peoples' representatives, the court said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Mahayuti wins civic polls in Maharashtra

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance swept the municipal corporation elections in Maharashtra on Friday with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis claiming victory in 25 of the 29 bodies.

The State Election Commission declared results for 2,833 of the 2,869 seats in the 29 corporations. The BJP won 1,400, becoming the single largest party. Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena won 397 seats, Congress 324, Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party 160, Shiv Sena (UBT) 153, NCP(SP) 36 and Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena won 13 seats.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

SIR: 61% of State electors with cut-off age mapped; progress slow in GBA area

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Preparations for the Statewide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls are gathering momentum in Karnataka, with the election authorities completing more than 61% of voter roll mapping across the State, with Bengaluru being the outlier.

As many as 1.92 crore electors with the cut-off age of 40 had been mapped out of the 3.12 crore identified in the 2025 rolls till January 15.

Overall, 3.28 crore electors – combining system-verified and Booth Level Officer (BLO)-verified entries – have been mapped so far across the State. This works out to 58.74% of the total 5.57 crore electors as per 2025 rolls.

Fresh target set

Sources said district election officials had been directed to complete mapping of at least one more crore electors by the end of this month.

"Urban areas, particularly the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits, have been asked to step up the pace," the sources said.

District-wise data showed that mapping is on track in most southern, central, and northern districts, while Bengaluru's urban segments continue to lag. Officials said that the mapping exercise was central to cleaning the rolls, removing duplication, and ensuring that no eligible elector was left out.

"This will feed into subsequent steps, including field verification, hearings, and updating of entries," an official said.

Several districts have crossed the 70% mark in mapping electors above the cut-off age. Koppal (75.1%), Chitradurga (75.7%), Haveri (75.1%), Tumakuru (76.4%) and Vijayapura (70.8%) are among the better-performing regions. Smaller districts such as Kodagu (70.4%) and Chamarajanagar (75.5%) have kept pace.

In coastal and southern Karnataka, Udupi has completed 66.5%, Dakshina Kannada 58.6%, and Mysuru 64.3%.

The three zones in GBA area – Central, North and South – are trailing significantly, with mapping percentages between 26 and 27, at Central – 27.47; North – 27.33 and South – 26.05. Bengaluru Urban district outside GBA has also mapped just 29.9%.

Election officials said these areas posed challenges due to rapid migration, higher population mobility, and large numbers of unverified entries.

Progeny mapping

A second part of the SIR preparation involves mapping electors born after the 2002 base year (labelled "progeny"). Alongside electors who meet the cut-off age, officials are updating "progeny data" – a set of records used to track young individuals who will reach eligibility in the coming years.

Statewide, 1.35 crore progeny records have been mapped so far. Districts such as Belagavi, Bagalkot, Tumakuru, and Vijayapura show higher consolidation of progeny data, while Bengaluru zones remain low owing to incomplete base-level verification.

Verification

With system-based mapping nearing saturation, the remaining electors will require field verification. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are expected to begin intensified door-to-door visits over the next two weeks. Officials said the verification round would focus on confirming identity and address, deleting duplicate or shifted entries, and ensuring no eligible voter was left out.

The SIR cycle will continue with further hearings and scrutiny before preparation of the final updated electoral rolls.

Political parties have been closely tracking the process, as the quality of the rolls could have implications for upcoming civic and Assembly elections.

Officials, however, maintained that the exercise was non-partisan and followed a laid-out procedure under the Election Commission's guidelines.

How SIR work is going on

Top 5 districts with highest mapping (in %)		Bottom 5 districts with lowest mapping (in %)	
Tumakuru	76.43	BBMP South*	26.05
Chitradurga	75.73	BBMP North*	27.33
Chamarajanagar	75.56	BBMP Central*	27.47
Vijayanagara	75.42	Bengaluru Urban	29.94
Haveri	75.14	Dakshina Kannada	58.60

*Now in GBA

State summary of electoral mapping progress

Total electors (2025) 5.57 crore	Mapped (cut-off age): 1.92 crore amounting to 61.48%
Cut-off age of 40 verified: 3.12 crore	Mapped, including progeny 3.27 crore amounting to 58.74%

GETTY IMAGES

What the Alcaraz-Ferrero split reveals about tennis' player-coach dynamic

The mania around the high-profile breakup shows the evolving nature of the athlete-confidant alliance in an individualistic sport. Coaches used to be support acts to the star. But with on-court coaching now fully legal at all levels, they have moved from backstage to front and centre

N. Sudarshan

On December 17, 2025, social media was abuzz with the heightened chatter surrounding Carlos Alcaraz's split with long-time coach Juan Carlos Ferrero. The world's best men's tennis player had taken to both Instagram and X to announce the parting of ways with a man who had shaped his career since he was 15, helping him earn six Major titles and scale the pinnacle of the ATP rankings.

Such was the frenzy that in faraway Bengaluru, on the sidelines of the World Tennis League exhibition tournament, an enthusiastic scribe asked the maverick Aussie Nick Kyrgios about it.

The 2022 Wimbledon finalist, who had not even heard the news until then, said, "I hope they are okay... I hope they are okay", keeping his head down and moving it vigorously from side to side. The tennis world and its most famous practitioners were both shaken and stirred.

Surprising divorces

In the subsequent days, the happenings were discussed threadbare, sides taken, loyalties questioned and judgments passed.

There have been surprising divorces before, like those between Novak Djokovic and Goran Ivanisevic, Naomi Osaka and Wim Fissette, Garbine Muguruza and Conchita Martinez, and Andy Murray and Ivan Lendl. But none elicited the feverish reactions the Alcaraz-Ferrero rupture did.

It may be a sign of the times wherein social-media engagement boosts reach, increases visibility and attempts to make maximum impact. It may also be because Alcaraz is arguably the most popular player on the planet and a bona fide tennis legend in the making, ensuring that every move of his is dissected and every action amplified.

> [On-court coaching] has created more value for the coaches, because the biggest thing that you want is to affect a match in real-time. It probably incentivises players to invest more into coaches
>
> **RAVEN KLAASEN**
> Former top-10 doubles player

But more than anything it may be the coming of age of the player-coach relationship in one of the most individualistic sports. Tennis has long prided itself for being among the torchbearers of the one-on-one contest. Coaches were all along seen as mere side actors rather than as protagonists. But not anymore.

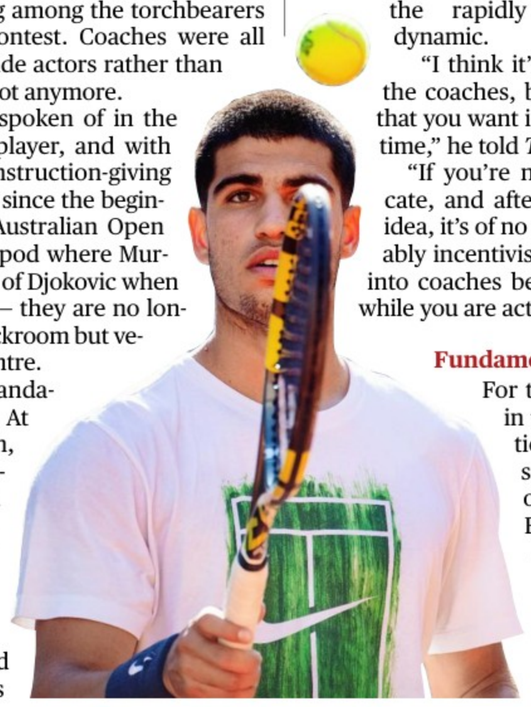
Coaches are now spoken of in the same breath as the player, and with on-court, real-time instruction-giving fully legal at all levels since the beginning of 2025 – the Australian Open even had a coaching pod where Murray sat within earshot of Djokovic when they were associates – they are no longer just part of the backroom but very much front and centre.

They even do standalone media briefings. At last year's Wimbledon, Jannik Sinner's coaches Darren Cahill and Simone Vagnozzi – who have helped him win four Slams – came to the press conference before the champion did and spoke for as long as the Italian eventually did. And the ATP, since 2016, and the WTA, since 2018, have instituted Coach of the Year awards, and Ferrero and Cahill have won the prize in three of the past four years.

South African Raven Klaasen, a former top-10 doubles player and Major finalist, who now travels with a bunch of Indians as part of the Doubles Dream of India project, feels that coaching during matches has played a big role in the rapidly shifting coach-player dynamic.

"I think it's created more value for the coaches, because the biggest thing that you want is to affect a match in real-time," he told *The Hindu*.

"If you're not allowed to communicate, and afterwards you have a good idea, it's of no value to anybody. It probably incentivises players to invest more into coaches because you get the result while you are actively busy."



Fundamental conflict

For the purists, this mutation in the mentor-mentee equation militates against the sport's foundational ethos of mano-a-mano combat. Battling loneliness on court, problem-solving on your own and coming up with ideas without external help are considered the basic tenets. Tennis resembling a team discipline is not for them.

But according to Klaasen, the game still retained a sufficient amount of individualism. "It's more restricted than you think," the 43-year-old replied when asked if on-court coaching was all-pervasive. "Players are on your side of the court only half the time. You're not allowed to delay play at all and you're not allowed to speak when the opponent takes a toilet break.

"So you are talking about little 'nibbits' of time. Like, you have 10 seconds and if you've got a great idea, the chance that you could get that over to your player and have a positive effect is quite small. It's not like cricket or rugby where you are standing and having a conversation in a time-out."

To be fair, the hiring of star advisors is not new to the game, and they have been accommodated for a multitude of reasons. For some, the guide is a sounding board, for others a father figure and for many just a person to help with bespoke skill-sets.

For example, the kind of instructors Djokovic has had – Boris Becker, Ivanisevic, Andre Agassi and Murray – shows that apart from helping with strategy and tactics, he needed someone of matching stature.

In contrast, Aryna Sabalenka, alongside her long-term tutors Jason Stacy and Anton Dubrov, sought the help of Gavin MacMillan, a biomechanics expert, to sort out her serve which had completely broken down in 2022.

"I was [never] looking for big names because sometimes big names are just big names," Sabalenka said during the WTA Finals in 2024. "I was looking for someone smart and someone who can understand that even if I go crazy on court, it's nothing personal."

But it is the siblings-in-arms nature of present-day combinations that feels different. One of the most striking visuals in recent times of a coach fronting up for a player came in August 2024 ahead of the US Open when Cahill defended Sinner publicly after news about the then World No.1's twin doping violations – and exoneration – had emerged.

Softening the blow

The Aussie, in an interview with *ESPN*, an agency he had worked for as an analyst in the past, softened the blow, helped lessen the media attention and ensured Sinner could focus on his tennis. It is an open question as to whether a less-pedigreed coach or a player without top-draw resources would have received the same platform.

Klaasen did not speak in this specific context, but opined that the mania around Alcaraz and Ferrero, and the continuing interest over the bond between Sinner and Cahill, only highlighted the evolving nature of the alliance between sportspersons and their confidants.

"The result that you see on the match court is the end result of a long process of discussions, possibly fights and disagreements," the former Australian Open and Wimbledon finalist said. "A lot goes on behind the scenes to get to that end product that you see. Oftentimes there are factors we don't know about that come into play.

"But again, as the sport becomes more and more professional, more and more difficult, it's harder and harder for players to do it by themselves. So support structure is necessary and we'll only see that becoming more important as things go forward," he added.

> I was [never] looking for big names because sometimes big names are just big names. I was looking for someone smart, someone who can understand that even if I go crazy on court, it's nothing personal
>
> **ARYNA SABALENKA**
> World No. 1

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	22	12,050	19
2	Jannik Sinner	24	11,500	18
3	Alexander Zverev	28	5,105	24
4	Novak Djokovic	38	4,780	19
5	Lorenzo Musetti	23	4,105	23
6	Alex de Minaur	26	4,080	23
7	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	3,990	27
8	Ben Shelton	23	3,960	22
9	Taylor Fritz	28	3,840	23
10	Alexander Bublik	28	3,065	29
11	Jack Draper	24	2,990	17
12	Daniil Medvedev	29	2,910	25
13	Casper Ruud	27	2,795	21
14	Andrey Rublev	28	2,600	26
15	A. Davidovich Fokina	26	2,585	25

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 279 ▼ 4 spots

Aryan Shah
Rank 394 ▲ 4 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	10,990	20
2	Iga Swiatek	24	8,328	20
3	Coco Gauff	21	6,423	20
4	Amanda Anisimova	24	6,320	21
5	Elena Rybakina	26	5,850	23
6	Jessica Pegula	31	5,453	23
7	Jasmine Paolini	30	4,267	19
8	Mirra Andreeva	18	4,232	19
9	Madison Keys	30	4,003	19
10	Belinda Bencic	28	3,512	20
11	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	3,375	25
12	Elina Svitolina	31	2,856	17
13	Linda Noskova	21	2,641	24
14	Clara Tauson	23	2,530	23
15	Emma Navarro	24	2,467	24

Top Indians ▶

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 367 ▲ 11 spots

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty
Rank 448 ▼ 1 spot

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	21	15	4	2	40	14	26	49
2	Man. City	21	13	4	4	45	19	26	43
3	Aston Villa	21	13	4	4	33	24	9	43
4	Liverpool	21	10	5	6	32	28	4	35
5	Brentford	21	10	3	8	35	28	7	33
6	Newcastle	21	9	5	7	32	27	5	32
7	Man. United	21	8	8	5	36	32	4	32
8	Chelsea	21	8	7	6	34	24	10	31
9	Fulham	21	9	4	8	30	30	0	31
10	Sunderland	21	7	9	5	21	22	-1	30
11	Brighton	21	7	8	6	31	28	3	29
12	Everton	21	8	5	8	23	25	-2	29
13	Crystal Palace	21	7	7	7	22	23	-1	28
14	Tottenham	21	7	6	8	30	27	3	27
15	Bournemouth	21	6	8	7	34	40	-6	26
16	Leeds United	21	5	7	9	29	37	-8	22
17	N. Forest	21	6	3	12	21	34	-13	21
18	West Ham	21	3	5	13	22	43	-21	14
19	Burnley	21	3	4	14	22	41	-19	13
20	Wolves	21	1	4	16	15	41	-26	7

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	20	15	1	4	43	17	26	46
2	AC Milan	20	12	7	1	33	16	17	43
3	Napoli	20	12	4	4	30	17	13	40
4	Juventus	20	11	6	3	32	16	16	39
5	Roma	20	13	0	7	24	12	12	39
6	Como	20	9	7	4	28	16	12	34
7	Atalanta	20	8	7	5	25	19	6	31
8	Bologna	20	8	6	6	29	22	7	30
9	Lazio	20	7	7	6	21	16	5	28
10	Udinese	20	7	5	8	22	32	-10	26
11	Sassuolo	20	6	5	9	23	27	-4	23
12	Torino	20	6	5	9	21	32	-11	23
13	Cremonese	20	5	7	8	20	28	-8	22
14	Parma	20	5	7	8	14	22	-8	22
15	Genoa	20	4	7	9	22	29	-7	19
16	Cagliari	20	4	7	9	21	30	-9	19
17	Lecce	20	4	5	11	13	28	-15	17
18	Fiorentina	20	2	8	10	21	31	-10	14
19	Pisa	20	1	10	9	15	30	-15	13
20	Verona	20	2	7	11	17	34	-17	13

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	19	16	1	2	53	20	33	49
2	Real Madrid	19	14	3	2	41	17	24	45
3	Villarreal	18	13	2	3	37	17	20	41
4	Atletico Madrid	19	11	5	3	34	17	17	38
5	Espanyol	19	10	4	5	23	20	3	34
6	Real Betis	19	7	8	4	31	25	6	29
7	Celta Vigo	19	7	8	4	25	20	5	29
8	Athletic Club	19	7	3	9	17	25	-8	24
9	Elche	19	5	8	6	25	24	1	23
10	Rayo Vallecano	19	5	7	7	16	22	-6	22
11	Real Sociedad	19	5	6	8	24	27	-3	21
12	Getafe	19	6	3	10	15	25	-10	21
13	Girona	19	5	6	8	18	34	-16	21
14	Sevilla	19	6	2	11	24	30	-6	20
15	Osasuna	19	5	4	10	18	22	-4	19
16	Alaves	19	5	4	10	16	24	-8	19
17	Real Mallorca	19	4	6	9	21	28	-7	18
18	Valencia	19	3	8	8	18	31	-13	17
19	Levante	18	3	5	10	21	30	-9	14
20	Real Oviedo	19	2	7	10	9	28	-19	13

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	17	15	2	0	66	13	53	47
2	Dortmund	17	10	6	1	32	15	17	36
3	RB Leipzig	16	10	2	4	32	19	13	32
4	Stuttgart	17	10	2	5	32	25	7	32
5	Hoffenheim	16	9	3	4	34	21	13	30
6	Leverkusen	16	9	2	5	34	24	10	29
7	Eintracht	17	7	5	5	35	36	-1	26
8	SC Freiburg	17	6	5	6	27	29	-2	23
9	Union Berlin	17	6	5	6	23	26	-3	23
10	M'gladbach	17	5	4	8	23	29	-6	19
11	Wolfsburg	17	5	3	9	26	37	-11	18
12	Cologne	17	4	5	8	25	29	-4	17
13	Werder	16	4	5	7	18	31	-13	17
14	Hamburg	16	4	4	8	17	27	-10	16
15	FC Augsburg	17	4	3	10	18	33	-15	15
16	Mainz	17	2	6	9	17	29	-12	12
17	St Pauli	16	3	3	10	14	28	-14	12
18	Heidenheim	17	3	3	11	16	38	-22	12

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	880	932
2	Harry Brook	857	898
3	Travis Head	853	884
4	Steve Smith	831	947
5	Kane Williamson	822	919
6	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
7	Temba Bavuma	775	806
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	750	858
9	Saud Shakeel	734	787
10	Shubman Gill	730	807

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	879	908
2	Noman Ali	843	853
3	Mitchell Starc	838	852
4	Matt Henry	836	853
5	Pat Cummins	832	914
6	Marco Jansen	825	825
7	Scott Boland	820	820
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	775	864
10	Nathan Lyon	753	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Virat Kohli	785	909
2	Daryl Mitchell	784	784
3	Rohit Sharma	775	882
4	Ibrahim Zadran	764	764
5	Shubman Gill	725	847
6	Babar Azam	722	898
7	Harry Tector	708	767
8	Shai Hope	701	802
9	Charith Asalanka	690	725
10	Shreyas Iyer	682	710

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	799
2	Jofra Archer	670	683
3	Kuldeep Yadav	649	761
4	Maheesh Theekshana	647	686
5	Keshav Maharaj	646	741
6	Bernard Scholtz	645	648
7	Mitchell Santner	630	657
8	Josh Hazlewood	628	727
9	Abrar Ahmed	624	630
10	Matt Henry	619	691

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	908	931
2	Phil Salt	849	881
3	Tilak Varma	805	845
4	Jos Buttler	770	794
5	Sahibzada Farhan	763	776
6	Pathum Nissanka	758	794
7	Travis Head	713	885
8	Mitchell Marsh	684	694
9	Tim Seifert	683	727
10	Dewald Brevis	680	685

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Varun Chakaravarthy	804	818
2	Wanindu Hasaranga	702	809
3	Jacob Duffy	699	750
4	Rashid Khan	694	828
5	Abrar Ahmed	691	703
6	Adil Rashid	686	747
7	Akeal Hosein	675	726
8	Mustafizur Rahman	665	718
9	Nathan Ellis	660	678
10	Adam Zampa	655	746

THE HINDU GROUP

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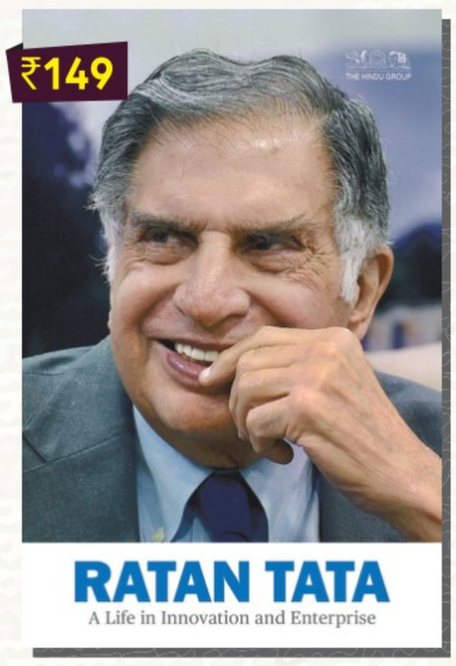
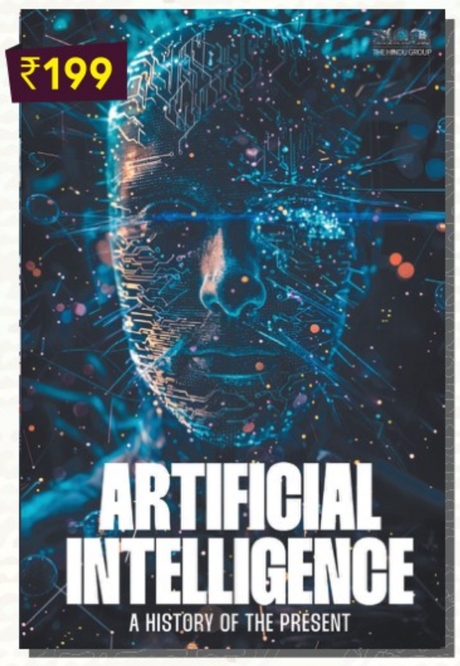
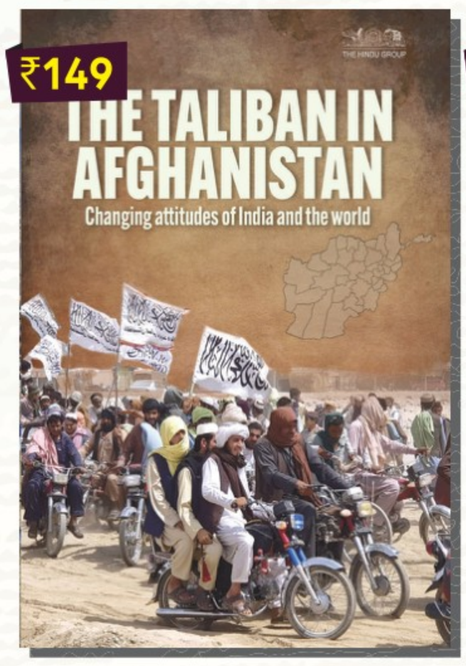
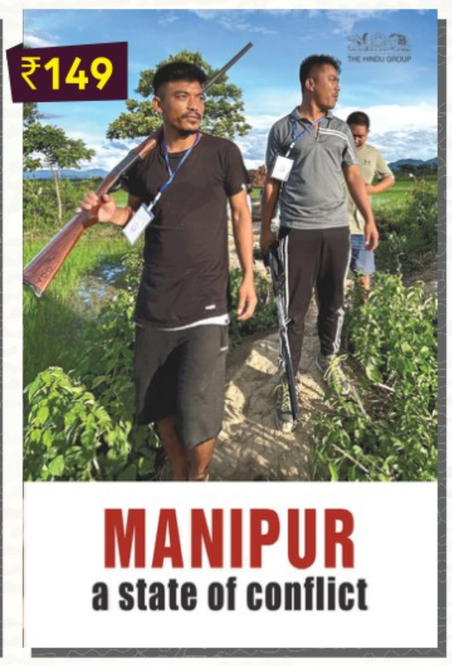
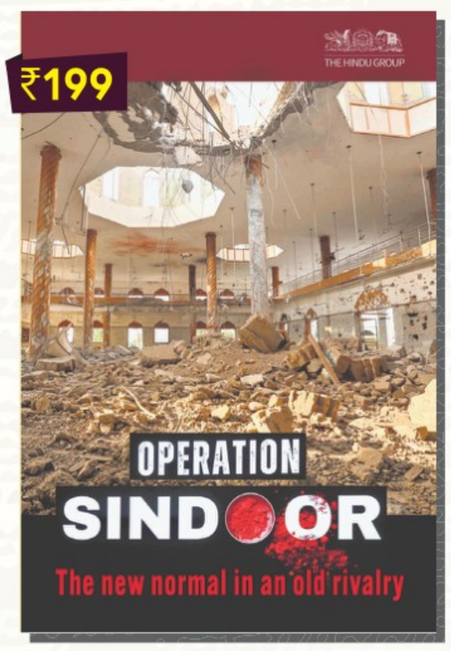








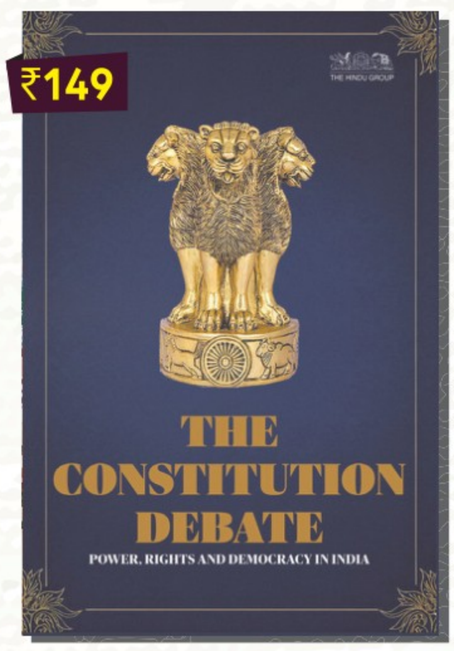


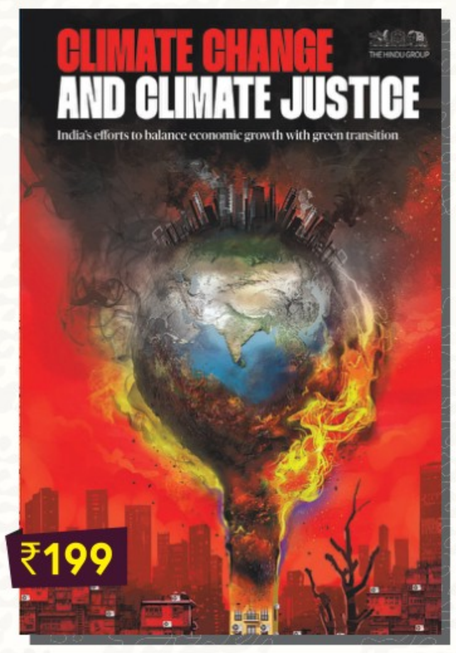
17 Books

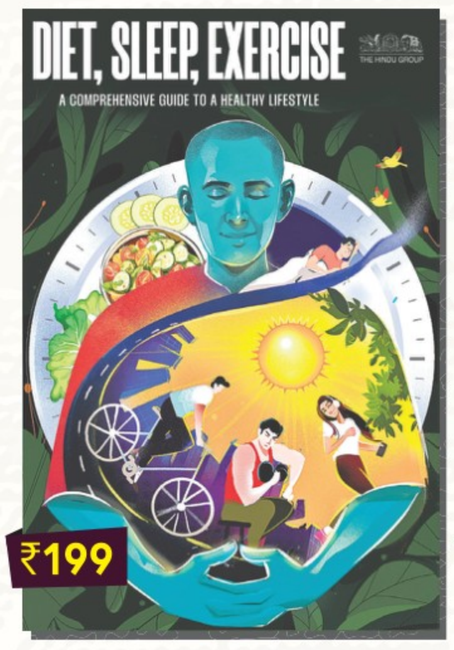
Epic subjects

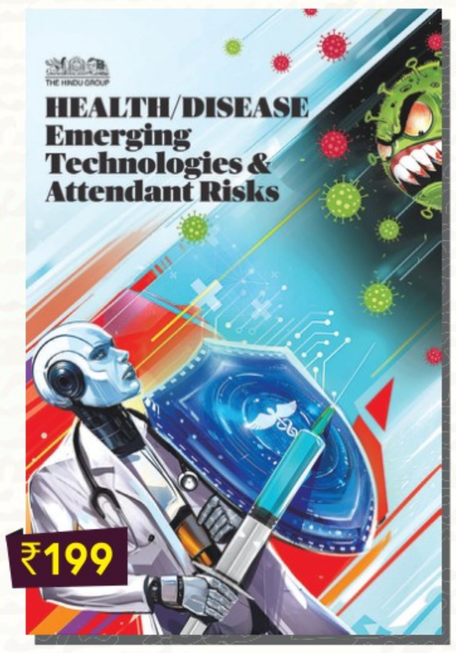
Great prices

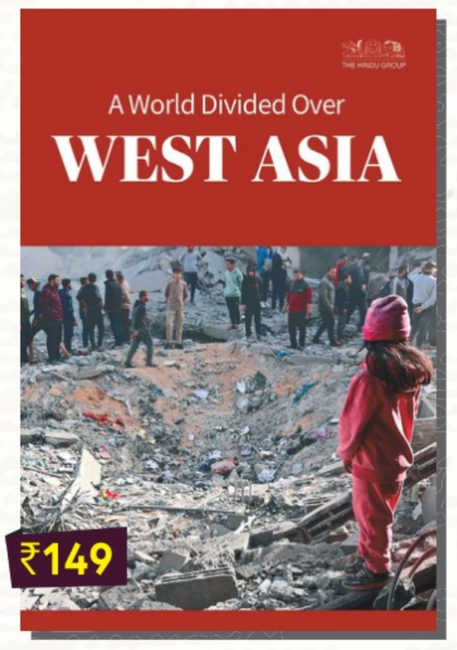
One massive sale

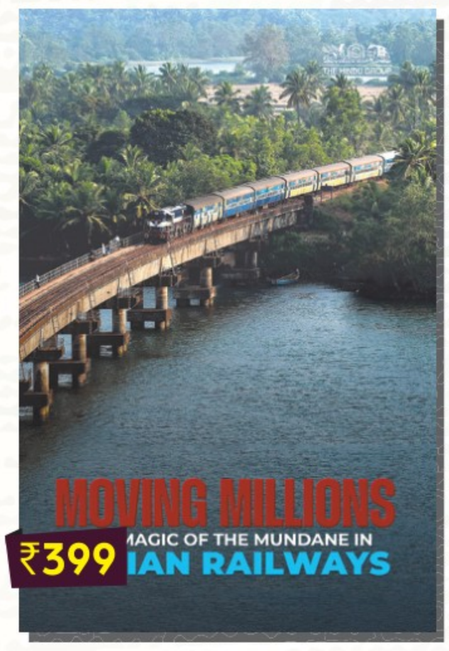


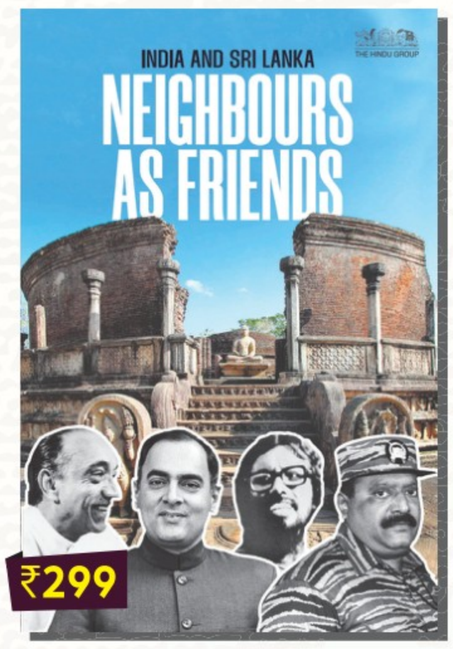


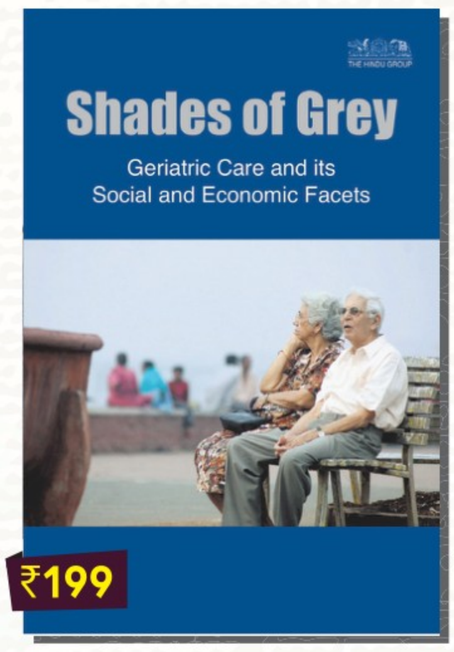


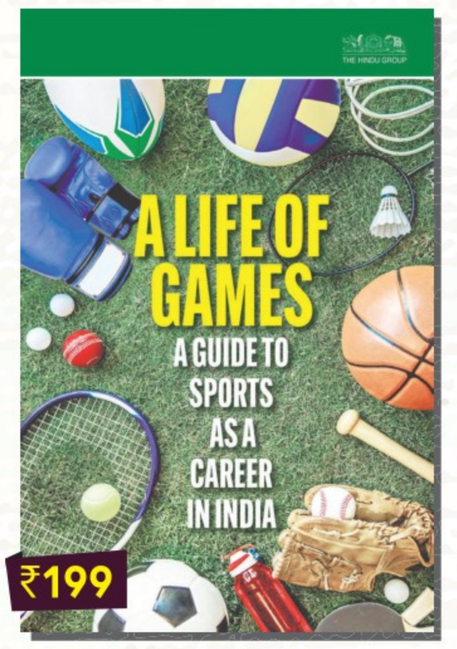


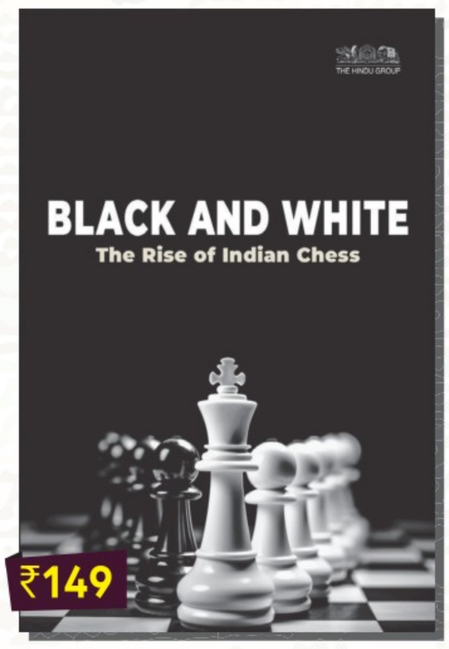












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CYBER-SHIELD UTTAR PRADESH

Breaking the backbone of cybercrime

Protecting Citizens • Preventing Digital Fraud • Strengthening Cyber Policing

PUBLIC ALERT:

"DIGITAL ARREST" IS A FRAUD

There is **NO** legal provision for "digital arrest" in the country.

Police or government agencies **do not arrest via video call, WhatsApp** or social media, and **NEVER** demand money

Do Not Share

OTPs • PIN • Personal details • Photos • Live location

REPORT IMMEDIATELY 1930

Protecting people in the digital age

As technology becomes an inseparable part of daily life, crime has also shifted into the digital domain. Recognising this evolving challenge, the Uttar Pradesh government, under the leadership of Yogi Adityanath, has launched a comprehensive, technology-driven strategy to protect citizens from cyber fraud, online scams, data theft, and digital intimidation. From creating elite Cyber Commandos to mass public awareness and capacity building of government personnel, Uttar Pradesh is emerging as a national leader in cyber security governance.

THREE PILLARS OF CYBER-SHIELD UP

ELITE CYBER COMMANDOS

Uttar Pradesh's Digital Strike Force

To break the backbone of cyber criminals, the Yogi government has constituted a special force of "Cyber Commandos", trained on the operational lines of SPG and NSG commandos, but for the cyber battlefield.

Key Highlights

- A team of highly skilled police personnel has been trained in the first phase.
- Training by experts from IIT Kanpur, IIT Madras, Naya Raipur, National Defence University (RRU)
- Advanced cyber forensics training from National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), Gujarat & Delhi
- Deployment at zonal and headquarters level
- Tasked with training district and police station-level personnel

How Cyber Commandos Operate

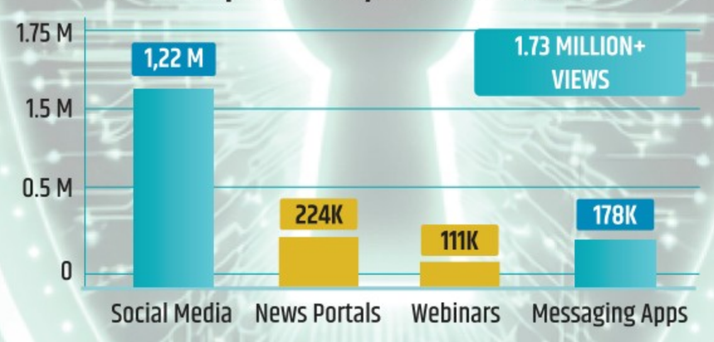
Strengthening Digital Law & Order

MASS CYBER AWARENESS

'Digital Arrest' Awareness Campaign: Mass Impact

- Over 1.73 million views across social media in just four days
- Message amplified through YouTube, X, Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp
- Strong public response and growing cyber vigilance

Public Response to Cyber Awareness Drive



Purpose: Make citizens fearless, informed, and alert against new cyber fraud tactics.

IMPACT & BENEFITS

Faster Response
Quick action on cyber threats

Better Recovery
Effective tracking of cyber criminals

Safer Digital Payments
Enhanced protection against fraud

Citizen confidence
Increased trust in online security

SPECIAL FOCUS

FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
- ✓ Clear warnings against digital intimidation
- ✓ Easy reporting via Cyber Helpline 1930

FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES
- ✓ Awareness on safe social media usage
- ✓ Protection from identity theft and data misuse

STATE-WIDE CYBER SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE

2 To 75: A Major Transformation

- Cyber crime police stations now operational in all 75 districts
- 100% Police Stations with Cyber Help Desks
- Dedicated Call Centre, Lucknow
- 50 Trained Tele-Callers, 24×7 operations
- National Cyber Helpline: 1930 for immediate reporting

Impact: • Faster reporting • Reduced financial losses • Higher chances of recovery

Massive expansion of cyber policing infrastructure under the Yogi Government.

Building a Cyber-Ready Government

The Yogi Government is strengthening cyber readiness within government itself through Mission Karmayogi.

What you should always remember

DO NOT	DO
✗ Share OTP	✓ Stay alert
✗ Overshare on social media	✓ Report early

1930

Digital growth is strongest when citizens are protected

TOGETHER, TOWARDS A CYBER - SAFE UTTAR PRADESH

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

It'll be great if the next World title match is India v USA — imagine the interest

Irina Krush, the only American woman to become a Grandmaster, has fond memories of India. In this conversation, she talks about wanting to see Gukesh defend his title against Fabiano Caruana, refusing to give up during the 12 years between her first and final GM norms, teaming with Magnus Carlsen in the Global Chess League, and looking at the silver lining in her struggles with Covid

INTERVIEW

Irina Krush

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Irina Krush was 14 when she first came to India. It proved an unforgettable experience for her, as she won the bronze medal at the World Junior Chess Championship (under-20 girls) in Kozhikode, the northern Kerala coastal city.

She was one of the stars of that tournament, in which she played, and lost to, a certain Koneru Humpy, who was even younger. That was in 1998. One still recalls meeting this curious, articulate girl from the United States. Sometimes, she would turn to the interviewer and ask questions. "Why are there so few women on the road in this city?" she wanted to know.

> Fabi miscalculated something and lost a pawn, and I won in the endgame. Then he tried to tell me how my technique could have been better

The only American woman to become a Grandmaster – across the world, only 44 women have done it – Krush is still as curious. She is still as articulate, too – a quality that has stood her in good stead as a commentator. She continues to play as well; she came up with a fine show at the Grand Swiss last September.

Excerpts from an interview Krush gave *The Hindu* during the recent Global Chess League in Mumbai, where she proved popular with fans:

You played the inaugural edition of the Global Chess League in 2023 as Magnus Carlsen's teammate. How did you find the experience of being a commentator this time?
Playing for Alpine SG Pipers was a very special experience. When I found out I was going to be playing in the same team as Carlsen, it was like a dream come true. And I really enjoyed commentating on the league this time around. It was a 10 out of 10 experience for me. The GCL is one of the year's best events in chess. What made it special in Mumbai was that we could feel the fan energy. So many people came to watch, to get autographs. The league is making chess exciting and accessible for the fans. The other day, when I was on my break, instead of sitting in the lounge, I went out to sit under the open sky, watch the match on the big screen with the rest of the people there. Then one of those fans asked me if I wanted to play. And my first reaction was like, Oh no, it's my break, right? But then I thought actually playing chess was the most fun.

And how good was your opponent?
He was very good. I would say I barely won.

And you have been doing well of late in tournaments, too, against opponents much younger.
Yes, I certainly enjoyed playing the Grand Swiss, which was my first actually. Earlier, I hadn't played because I was in my teaching mode; I had been spending a lot of time coaching young kids. At the Grand Swiss in Samarkand, I finished seventh. It felt nice, given that I was ranked towards the bottom of this tournament [seeded 44th in a field of 56]. I gained like 20 rating points.

You were of course rated much higher earlier and became a Grandmaster in 2013, after a long wait for your final norm.
I wrote an article about that whole experience, for US Chess Online.

And that was chosen as the best article on Chess Life Online for that year, wasn't it?
Yeah. And there was a picture of me after I had just done it. And that picture captured everything. I can look at it and I can remember that feeling. I remember the feeling of that long-awaited victory, you know, of having suffered for nine rounds against, like, all these GMs, and then finally getting that GM norm. I had made my first norm when I was 17. And I became a Grandmaster 12 years later. It was definitely something I wanted to do. And I kind of kept playing chess until I did it. And I didn't switch over to anything else until that was done.

What are your memories from that World junior championship in Kerala?
It was my first medal in international chess in the classical format. And doing it at 14, in an Under-20 tournament, meant a lot. I remember having watermelon juice at breakfast, and playing Humpy, who was 11. You know, I played Hou Yifan too when she was 11. After the Chennai Olympiad in 2022, I went back to Kerala. It is funny that I went back to that same place where I started my journey in India.

Indian chess has become much stronger since your first visit.
I remember in the beginning, Humpy was coming up. And there was Harikrishna, and then [Parimarjan] Negi... At some point, the wave just exploded. Now there are so many talented kids like R. Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and Divya Deshmukh. I thought Divya was superb at the Grand Swiss in which she chose to play against the men, and not the women's tournament. And she represented the women very well. It was a brave thing to do, playing in the open section. It was a big challenge. And I think it is very cool that she stepped up to do it. She beat a number of these GMs, and drew with Gukesh. I noticed that her preparation was good. Whoever was helping also did a good job because her openings looked very solid and her male opponents were not able to really take advantage of her in the opening. And I was following Gukesh's World title match against Ding Liren. I think it will be great if the next World Championship match is between India and the USA.

> It was a brave thing to do, [Divya Deshmukh] playing in the open section [at the 2025 Grand Swiss]. It was a big challenge. And I think it is very cool that she stepped up to do it

So you feel Fabiano Caruana is a strong favourite at the Candidates?
Yes. Imagine the kind of interest a World title match between an Indian and an American could create. That will be great for chess.

Caruana led Alpine SG Pipers to the GCL title here. You beat him at Corus in 2008.
At that point he was rated around 2590 and I was maybe 2470. He had miscalculated something and lost a pawn, and then I won in the endgame. Then he tried to tell me how my technique could have been better. But it was good enough. I also remember his coach smiling at me when I won that game. Maybe he wasn't that upset that I won.

Fabi was really good even then, but I am not sure if I knew that I was playing against the future World No. 2.

You had a tough time with Covid...
I never actually recovered my breathing to the level that I was before. I would say there is probably some sort of structural damage that was done on some level, but, fortunately, I am extremely functional.

Some people are not. I got it through the acute phase of Covid. I could barely speak without running out of breath. I couldn't even teach my lessons online. It was like a truck ran over my chest and you just couldn't open up the lungs. But Covid taught me a lot about health. My health is now my hobby, my passion, my interest. It is like an ongoing project for me.

And I don't think I would have done that without Covid.

So, I suffered some damage, but I think in the long run, you know, it will work out in my favour.

GCL

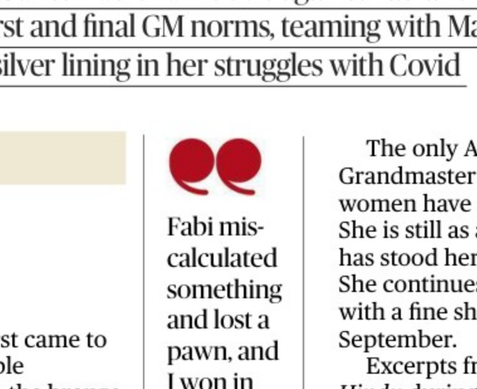
GAME THEORY

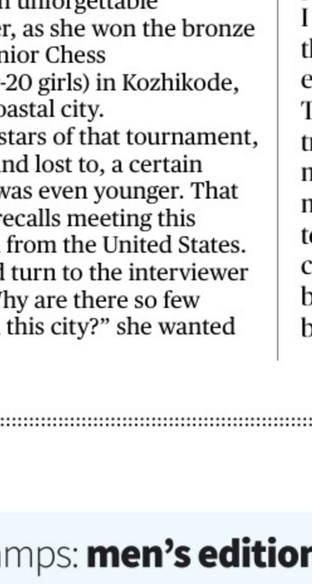
Greatest Aussie Open champs: **men's edition**

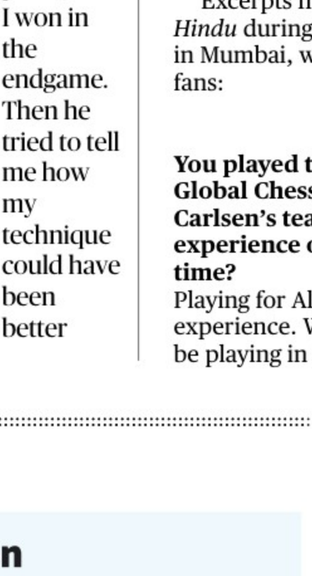
With the season's first Major getting underway on Sunday, we look at the most successful men's singles champions at the Australian Open in all its avatars. The tournament began as the Australasian Championships (1905) before becoming the Australian Championships (1927). Its final form as the Australian Open came into being when the Open Era commenced in 1969.

MOST SINGLES TITLES

Player	Titles	Editions won
Novak Djokovic	10	2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023
Roy Emerson	6	1961, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967
Roger Federer	6	2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2017, 2018
Jack Crawford	4	1931, 1932, 1933, 1935
Ken Rosewall	4	1953, 1955, 1971, 1972
Andre Agassi	4	1995, 2000, 2001, 2003
James Anderson	3	1922, 1924, 1925
Adrian Quist	3	1936, 1940, 1948
Rod Laver	3	1960, 1962, 1969
Mats Wilander	3	1983, 1984, 1988
Rodney Heath	2	1905, 1910
Anthony Wilding	2	1906, 1909
Pat O'Hara Wood	2	1920, 1923
John Bromwich	2	1939, 1946
Frank Sedgman	2	1949, 1950
Ashley Cooper	2	1957, 1958
John Newcombe	2	1973, 1975
Guillermo Vilas	2	1978, 1979
Johan Kriek	2	1981, 1982
Stefan Edberg	2	1985, 1987
Ivan Lendl	2	1989, 1990
Boris Becker	2	1991, 1996
Jim Courier	2	1992, 1993
Pete Sampras	2	1994, 1997
Rafael Nadal	2	2009, 2022
Jannik Sinner	2	2024, 2025


Novak Djokovic


Roy Emerson


Roger Federer

SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN OPEN

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Two in one

Biathlon is a winter sport whose origins can be traced back to Scandinavian skiing practices and Norwegian military training.

Combining cross-country skiing and rifle-shooting, the discipline involves racing across a trail, with the length of the course divided into shooting rounds (known as bouts).

The shooting rounds are not timed. But, depending on the type of competition (sprint, relay, mass start, pursuit, individual), missed shots result in a penalty of extra distance or time.

In the pursuit event, portrayed in this photograph, the biathletes' starts are staggered according to their time differences in a qualifying race, typically a sprint.

A distance of 12.5 km (men) or 10 km (women) is skied over five laps, interspersed with four shooting bouts (two prone, two standing).

Each miss in a shooting round adds a penalty loop of 150m to the competitor's distance. The first past the finishing line is the winner. The World Cup is one of biathlon's premier competitions. It is a season-long series which has been staged since 1977-78 for men and 1982-83 for women.

SATURDAY
January 17, 2026

BENGALURU
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S. Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

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PHASE I: REAL RESULTS IN 300 DAYS

29,978 FIRs registered under the NDPS Act

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Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

Despite ban, illegal hoardings choke city streets

During Sankranti, citizens could spot hoardings at every 100 metres or less in areas such as Shanti Nagar, BTM Layout, Jayanagar, Vijayanagar, and R.R. Nagar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite a ban in place, Bengaluru continues to be flooded with illegal hoardings across corporations, posing a threat to public safety and, in many instances, blocking pedestrian pathways.

During Sankranti, hoardings dotted the city, turning into an eyesore. Citizens could spot hoardings every 100 metres or less in areas such as Shanti Nagar, BTM Layout, Jayanagar, Vijayanagar, and RR Nagar.

On Srinivagilu Road near Ejipura, a tall single flex spanning at least 30 to 40 feet, featuring Ramalinga Reddy and Sowmya Reddy, was erected by party workers on Wednesday. Many streets in South Bengaluru also featured hoardings displaying C.K. Ramamurthy. The corporations conducted a clearance drive on Friday.

Pedestrians struggle as they try to enter the Kempegowda Complex due to a huge Sankranti wishes banner blocking the entrance at Chickpet in Bengaluru on Friday. ALLEN EGENUSE J

A senior Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) official said that during the festival season, corporation offices receive hundreds of applications seeking permission to install hoardings. "We permit a few, setting a specific deadline of certain hours, considering religious sentiments. However, failure to remove them even after the programme is over prompts action," the officer said.

In many instances, event organisers and those installing hoardings merely seek permission but do not bother to wait for approval. "They simply go ahead and install banners irrespective of whether permission is granted or not. In many cases, people do not seek permission at all," the officer said, adding that such elements are fined substantially, yet they continue to repeat the violations.

Officials said many event organisers violate the law and then pay the fines, highlighting the need to revisit the existing fine structure. Currently, fines of ₹1,000 and above, depending on the extent of the violation, are imposed in the city. Police officers also book cases under the Karnataka Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act. Even in such cases, the accused pay a fine and walk free.

Karan P., a resident of Koramangala, noted that enforcement is poor, pointing to several flexes that have remained uncleared for months across the area.

The erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike had introduced the silt and tractors scheme to aid debris removal and encroachment clearance in the city. R. Rajagopalan of the Bengaluru Coalition, a collective of civil society organisations, said he rarely sees tractors deployed under the silt and tractors scheme, which is meant to clear such flexes.

A senior police officer said, "You will see that most of these flexes are festival greetings in the names of politicians or messages welcoming them to events. Very rarely are ordinary individuals fined for illegally installing flexes."

According to the officer, even during clearance drives, party workers often ask officials to first remove flexes from rival politicians installed elsewhere before taking down their own. This frequently results in civic body officials refraining from enforcing the law strictly.

Mr. Rajagopalan suggested that the GBA adopt a proactive approach by convening a meeting with City Corporation Commissioners and the Police Department and drafting a strict and consistent standard operating procedure (SOP) for the removal of illegal hoardings across corporations.

Power shutdown

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Several areas on the city's outskirts will face disruption in their power supply on January 17 and 18, between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., due to transmission line and substation works.

Areas affected
66/11 kV Attibele: Yadavanahalli, Icchanguru, Vaddarapalya, Attibele Industrial Area, Balagaranahalli, Manchanahalli, Attibele Town, Mayasandra, Dasanapura, Balluru, Kamblipura, Chikkanahalli, Indlabele, Harohalli, and surrounding areas.

66/11 kV Samanduru: Samanduru and surrounding areas.

66/11 kV Anekal: Rachamanahalli, Guddanahalli, Aravantigepura, P. Gollahalli, Telagarahalli, Vanakanahalli.

Temple thief caught, ₹10 lakh recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed to committing the thefts

The Parappana Agrahara police have arrested a notorious temple thief and have recovered gold and silver ornaments worth about ₹10 lakh in connection with a series of thefts from temples in the area.

The arrested accused has been identified as Venkatesh alias Murugesh, 45, a resident of Anekal's Kommasandra.

According to the police, the theft occurred at a temple located in Singasandra under the Parappana Agrahara Police Station limits. The priest had locked the temple before going home on the night of January 1. When he returned the next morning, he found that the front door was broken open. Upon inspection, it was discovered that a *hundi,* gold and silver ornaments kept on the idol (including a gold *mangalsutra*), rings, and silver decorations, had been stolen.

Based on a complaint lodged by the temple authorities on January 5, the Parappana Agrahara Police registered a case and launched an investigation. Acting on credible information, the police apprehended the accused on January 6 near the Singasandra Ganesh Temple.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed to committing the thefts by breaking open temple doors at night using iron rods and stealing gold and silver ornaments. He also admitted to selling some of the stolen articles through his acquaintances and using the money for personal expenses.

Based on information provided by the accused, the police have recovered 23 grams of gold ornaments and 2.6 kg of silver articles from him and his associates. Police said the arrest has helped them identify three temple theft cases – two of which are under the Parappana Agrahara Police Station limits and one under the Begalagunte Police Station limits.

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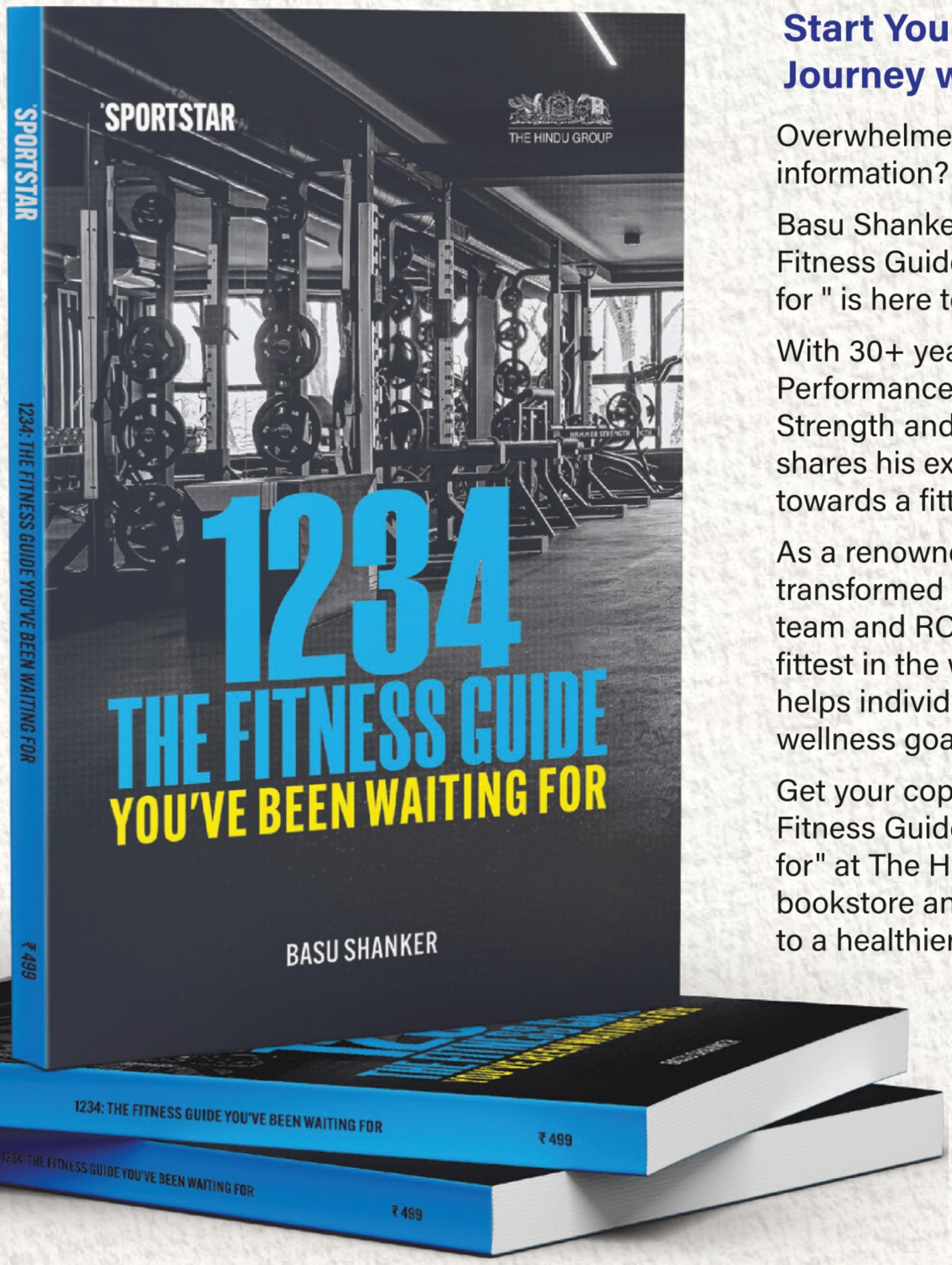

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‘Act against right-wing activist for harassment of migrant workers’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Campaign Against Hate Speech collective has appealed to the Director-General of Police, Karnataka, to take action against the right-wing activist and cow vigilante Puneeth Kerehalli for allegedly intimidating migrant workers, entering their houses and interrogating them about their nationality.

“We write to draw your urgent attention to the deeply troubling conduct by Puneeth Kerehalli, a person currently facing murder charge and who is out on bail, who has been repeatedly entering migrant workers’ dwellings and sheds, interrogating them about their nationality, and demanding identity documents while threatening and intimidating them. These actions are illegal, undermine the dignity and safety of workers, and risk provoking mob violence,” read a letter submitted by the collective to the DGP.

YouTube video

According to the letter, in a video uploaded by Mr. Kerehalli on his YouTube channel on January 14, he is seen calling some persons ‘illegal migrants’ and intimidating them, demanding that they disclose their citizenship, taking videos without their consent, and demanding Aadhaar cards of people without any authorisation.

“Any undocumented migration is to be acted upon by the MHA, FRRO and State authorities. As such, private citizens such as Mr. Kerehalli have no right to unlawfully enter the homes of people, harass and intimidate them,” stated the letter.

High Court pauses ground-level development work at Roerich estate

State government has proposed to convert the Roerich and Devika Rani Roerich Estate into a eco-tourism and cultural hub under the Central government’s special assistance scheme for development of iconic tourist centres

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has restrained the State government from taking up any development activities at the ground level based on a proposed project of converting the Roerich and Devika Rani Roerich Estate, Bengaluru, into a eco-tourism and cultural hub under the Central government’s special assistance scheme for development of iconic tourist centres.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the interim order on a PIL petition filed by the R.R. Nagar I Care Trust, Bengaluru.

The Roerich and Devika Rani Roerich Estate. FILE PHOTO

The interim order was passed on January 13 after Shanthi Bhushan H., Deputy Solicitor-General of India, appearing on behalf of the Central government, informed the Bench that the Union Ministry of Tourism had not received the proposal from the State government for a tourism hub project at the estate and hence it cannot be implemented under the Centre’s scheme at present.

The petitioner had contended that the proposed development of the estate is contrary to provisions of the Roerich and Devika Rani Roerich Estate (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996, while challenging the approval given to the project by the State government in December 2024.

Deemed forest

Contending that the estate is a ‘deemed forest’ as per documents submitted to the Supreme Court by the State government, the petitioner has pointed out that the estate comes under the purview of the Revenue Department despite being a ‘deemed forest’ and a request of the State Forest Department to transfer the estate to it has not been heeded to by the government.

The petitioner has also pointed out that the State’s Biodiversity Board during 2021-23 suggested declaring the estate as a‘Biodiversity heritage site.’

Elephant corridor

Stating that forest cover from Bannerghatta passes through Bannerghata National Park and the Roerich estate, etc., the petitioner has said that estate is also part of an elephant corridor, and diversion of the estate as tourism hub would destroy the elephant corridor, wildlife in Bannerghata forest area, and flora and fauna in the region as the tourism project forecasts the visit of 25,000 people everyday to the estate once it is developed as a tourism hub.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING
UTTAR PRADESH, 6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW.

No. ME-3/2026/76 Lucknow, Dated: 16.01.2026

TIME REVISED SCHEDULE FOR "THIRD ROUND" OF UP NEET PG COUNSELING 2025 (M.D./,M.S./DIPLOMA & D.N.B.

In accordance with the REVISED schedule issued by the Medical Counseling Committee (MCC), New Delhi for the NEET PG course, revised time **schedule for the Third round** of online counseling for admission to state quota seats in undergraduate courses (M.D./M.S./DIPLOMA & D.N.B.) in Government / Private Medical Colleges / Institutions / Medical Universities is as follows:-

S. No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1	Date of online registration	**From** :- 23-01-2026 (11:00 AM) **To** :- 01-02-2026 (11:00 AM)	09 Days
2	Date of depositing registration and security money	**From** :- 23-01-2026 (11:00 AM) **To** :- 01-02-2026 (02:00 PM)	10 Days
3	Date of Merit List Declaration	**On** :- 02-02-2026	01 Day
4	Date of online Choice Filling	**From** :- 03-02-2026 (11:00 AM) **To** :- 07-02-2026 (11:00 AM)	04 Days
5	Date of Allotment Result Declaration	**On** :- 09-02-2026	01 Day
6	Date for downloading the allotment letters & Admission	**From :-** 09-02-2026 **To :-**13-02-2026	05 Days

- Candidates who have already registered for this counselling earlier will not be required to register again.
- As per the instructions contained in the government order/brochure of UP NEET PG 2025, candidates should assess their eligibility themselves.
- Only those candidates will be eligible for choice filling who have completed the online registration process, and who have deposited the required security amount.
- The UP NEET PG 2025 information booklet (brochure) and important instructions are available on the website **www.upneet.in** and **www.dgme.up.gov.in**. Keep visiting websites regularly for updated information.

Helpline Numbers : 8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699, 8189011700

Director General
Medical Education & Training, UP

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
SIGNALING WORKS

CORRIGENDUM NO. 01/25-26 TO TENDER NO.: SUR-NC-CR-SNT-C-S-02-2026, Dated 11.01.2026. Name of work: Supply, Installation, Testing & commissioning of Indoor & Outdoor equipment's in connection with provision of electronic interlocking at 3 stations between Osmanabad to Tuljapur Alteration work in RRI at Osmanabad & Outdoor signaling works at 04 stations between Osmanabad to Tuljapur in connection with Solapur - Osmanabad new BG line in Solapur Division of Central Railway. The details of the above-mentioned Corrigendum Tender Notice have been published on the website **www.ireps.gov.in** on **14.01.2026** in connection with the aforesaid work. Tenderers are advised to note the above changes. All other terms and conditions remain un-changed.

Asst. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Construction), Central Railway, Solapur
AK/Sur-10

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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, TUMKUR TERRITORIAL DIVISION, TUMKUR
E-Mail:acftumkur@gmail.com

No:ACF/TUSD/E-TENDER/CR-07/2026-26/737
Dated: 13.01.2026

E-Tender Notification

E-Tender is invited by the Forest Department, Turnkur Sub-Division, Tumkur Territorial Division pertaining to Gubbi range under CEPMIZ (KMERC) Scheme for Excavation of CPT and Planting of Agave Plants on bunds, Excavation of CPT and Planting of Agave Plants on bunds, Raising of Plantation, Advance work and Raising of Pbs. Advance work and Raising of Seedlings, Maintenance of older SANDAL Plantation, Percolation trenches, Engaging Fire Watchers in Fire season, Grassification of open Surfaces, Raising plantations in Mine lease area, Strip Plantation along Mine Roads and Vacant eroded areas, Formation of patrolling path, Advance work and Raising of PBS - PBS size 8*12, Distribution of 8X12 Seedlings. Institutional Plantation and other works for the year 2025-26. The Bidder needs to be Registered as Forest Contractor during 2025-26 for Forestry works can participate for the following works.
Total Number of Works: 58. Highest Value of the Work Rs.79,53,750/-. Highest Value EMD Rs.79,538/-, Lowest Value of the Work Rs.1,02,664/-, Lowest Value EMD Rs.2567/-, Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: 23-01-2026 at 3:00 PM. Technical Bid Opening Date : 27-01-2026 at 3:00 PM. Price Bid Opening Date : 28-01-2026 at 3:00 PM. Last date for Bid Enquiry : 19-01-2026 at 3:00 PM. For more information about this tender may contact our office at office timings and more details on https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Tumkur Sub Division, Tumkur

DIPR/TUM/410/KSMCA/2025-26

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ; CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425

Tender Ref. No.: GEM/2026/B/7095781 **Date: 16-01-2026**

Tender Notice Invitation

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/Importer/Authorized Agent for supply of **Digital Radiography System** The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

S.N.	Activity	Date & Time
1.	Tender Reference No.	GEM/2026/B/7095781
2.	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	16-01-2026
3.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	21/01/2026 at 3:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.
4.	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	27/01/2026 up to 12:00 PM.
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	27/01/2026 at 12:30 PM
6.	Date of Completion of Examination of Technical Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
8.	Date of Completion of Examination of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.

Managing Director, UPMSCL
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture,
Mahadevapura & KR Pura Zone, Bengaluru-560036

No.: SADH/MZ/TENDER/03/2025-26 **Date: 16.01.2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Project Division invites **item rate** tenders from the eligible tenderers for the work details in the table given below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the table in appropriate class registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike / CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / any State or Central Govt. Organization.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Fencing / Chain link Fencing other Civil works to Inner Circle Park in Mahadevapura Constituency. **(Call-2). Approx. Value of Work (in Rs.): 67,78,938/-, EMD (in Rs.): 1,35,580/-.**

Calendar of events: (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: 17.01.2026, 3:00 p.m. (2)** Date and time for pre bid meeting: **20.01.2026** at **3:00 p.m. (3)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **28.01.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (4)** Date & time for opening of Technical bid: **29.01.2026** at **4:30 p.m. (5)** Date & time for opening of Financial bid: **After Technical bid approval.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Mahadevapura & KR Pura Zone, BECC

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ
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ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562159. **Phone:** 080-29911780,, **E-Mail:** ddkandmgka@gmail.com

ಸಂ.: ಗಭೂಇ/ಉನಿಬೆಂದ/ಬಹ/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.01.2026

ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹಾರೊಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮರಳವಾಡಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬಾಚಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 114ರ 1–20 ಎಕರೆ ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ.ಜೆ ಸತೀಶ್ ರವರ ಪಟ್ಟಾ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಕಲ್ಲುಗಣಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪರವಾನಿಗೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪಿ63ರಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಹಿಂದೆ ವಶಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದ 124 ಶಿಲಾದಿಮ್ಮಿಗಳು ಸಾಗಾಣಿಕೆ ಮಾಡದೇ ಸ್ಥಳದಲ್ಲೇ ದಾಸ್ತಾನು ಮಾಡಿದ್ದು, ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡುವ ಕುರಿತು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್ ಫೋರ್ಸ್ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲಾಗಿ ಸಭೆಯು ಸರ್ವಾನುಮತದಿಂದ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ತೀರ್ಮಾನಿಸಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **ಅದರಂತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮತ್ತು ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ರವರ ಸಮ್ಮುಖದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.02.2026 ರಂದು ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ಇಲ್ಲಿ 124 ಅಲಂಕಾರಿಕಾ ಶಿಲಾದಿಮ್ಮಿಗಳನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲಿದಿಯೋ ಹೇಗಿದೆಯೋ ಹಾಗೆಯೇ ಹರಾಜು ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು** ಎಂದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಖನಿಜದ ವಿಧ, ಕೋಡ್ ಸ್ಥಳ, ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ದರ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜಧನ ವಿವರ (As per Schedule-II, III & Form O)	ಕ್ಯೂಬಿಕ್ ಮೀ.	ಖನಿಜ ಮೌಲ್ಯ ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (25%) ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
1	1. As per Form O, Granites: (1) Dolerite and Gabbro Dykes "Black and Green Granites: (e) Other varieties of "Black granites dykes without defects: As per Schedule-III, BLG-5, Minimum rate 1000/ Cu.Mt As per Schedule-II, Omamental and Decorative Building Stone: (ii) Other varieties of dyke other than Black Graniles (Entire State). 2. ಹಾರೊಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮರಳವಾಡಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬಾಚಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 114ರ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 1–20 ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ವಶಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದ 124 ಬಹುವರ್ಣೀಯ ಶಿಲಾದಿಮ್ಮಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಯಮ 47ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇದರ ಒಟ್ಟು ಪ್ರಮಾಣ 211.416 ಕ್ಯೂಬಿಕ್ ಮೀ.	211.416	2,11,416/-	52,854/-
	ಒಟ್ಟು	**211.416**	**2,11,416/-**	**52,854/-**

ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವವರು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗದ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ರೂ.1000/– ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತಗಳನ್ನು ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ Demand Draft ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಾವತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಬಹಿರಂಗ ಹರಾಜು ಮಾರಾಟ ವಿಲೇವಾರಿಯ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಖನಿಜದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **ತಹಶೀಲ್ದಾರ್ ಕಛೇರಿ ಹಾರೋಹಳ್ಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ** ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **9844183858, 9900501140.**

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್‌ಫೋರ್ಸ್ (ಗಣಿ) ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ರಾಮನಗರ.

DIPR/BSD/570/SA/2025-26

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
SIGNALING WORKS

Assistant Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Construction) C.R., Solapur, for & on behalf of The President of India, invites online open e-tenders from eligible tenderers for following work. **Tender Notice No. SUR-NC-CR-SNT-C-T-03-2026 Dated 14-01-2026. Name of work**: "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of control & emergency communication system, Gate phones, Trenching, laying, jointing and termination of 0+0+6 quad cable, u/g jelly field cable & Provision of Optic Fiber Communication including supply of material, Trenching, OFC laying by blowing technique in HDPE duct, HDPE Duct laying, Splicing termination etc of OFC cable in SOLAPUR-TULJAPUR-OSMANABAD sections of Solapur division in connection with of NEW B.G. LINE work of Solapur Division on Central Railway". **Approximate cost of work**: ₹ 17,01,43,259.07 (Rs. Seventeen Crore One Lakh Forty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Nine and Paise Seven Only).**Cost of Tender Form/Booklet:** ₹ 0.00. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 10,00,700/- (Rs. Ten Lakh Seven Hundred Only). **Completion period of the work**: 12 Months (Twelve Months) from the date of issuing LOA. Including monsoon and harvest period. **Start date for submission of tender Date: 09-02-2026**. **Last date and time for submission of tender Date: 23.02.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Date and time of closing of tender Date: 23.02.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs.** Website where complete details of tender available: **www.ireps.gov.in**

Asst. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer (Const.) CR, Solapur
Akar/Sur-9

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DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 1, BENGALURU
No. 4, LIC Firt Floor, Jeevan Mangal Building, Residency Road, Bengaluru - 560 025.

Form No. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]

RC No. : 13187

The Federal Bank
Rajajinagar Branch
Bengaluru - 560 010. **... Certificate Holder**
Versus
Sri Abhinav Gupta & Another **... Certificate Debtors**

DEMAND NOTICE

To,
Sri. Abhinav Gupta S/o. Anand Kumar Gupta,
Res. At : No. 4, 1st Cross, Seetappa Layout, Manorayanapalya, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 032.
Sri. Anand Kumar Gupta S/o. Jugal Kishore Gupta
Res. At : No. 4, 1st Cross, Seetappa Layout, Manorayanapalya, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 032.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A. No. 528 / 2010** passed by the **Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal - 1, Bangalore** an amount of **Rs. 23,63,259.00 (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh(s) Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Nine Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from the date of O.A. till realization.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the Receipt of the notice failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay.

(a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this **30th day of July 2018.**

Sd/- (Rajasekharan .R)
Recovery Officer - 1
Debts Recovery Tribunal - 1, Bangalore

Note : Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below.

: "Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

(2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

(3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 year.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
MASTER CONTROL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION
PB #66, Hassan – 573201, India, Telephone: 08172 – 273520

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-Tendering mode for the following work:

Name of Work	Civil Works to avoid entry of birds in to plumbing Ducts at Bhaskara Tower, Antarikshanagar	Providing shelter for the car parking in the parking lot of MCF Hassan.	Interior works for New CMG Building at MCF Hassan.
NIT No.	MCF/CMD/H/eTN-29/2025-26/ 1-1260 Dated: 17.01.2026	MCF/CMD/H/eTN-31/2025-26/ 1-1348 Dated: 17.01.2026	MCF/CMD/H/eTN-32/2025-26/ 1-1349 Dated: 17.01.2026
Estimated Cost	Rs. 10,80,113/-	Rs. 23,29,419/-	Rs. 17,70,994/-
EMD	Rs. 21,602/-	Rs. 46,588/-	Rs. 35,420/-
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 17.01.2026, 10:00 Hrs. To. 27.01.2026, 17:30 Hrs.		
Last date & time of receipt of tender	30.01.2026, 17:30 Hrs.		
Due date and time of opening of tenders	On 02.02.2026 from 11:30 Hrs. onwards (Technical Bid)		

For eligibility criteria & other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on the website **http://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **http://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** The bid forms and other details can be downloaded from the website: **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** All corrigendums, addendums, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the tenderwizard portal only and will not be published in newspapers. Bidder may regularly visit the above websites for any updates.

Sd/- Head, CMD

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASHISH S, S/o. Saravana Kumar, R/at Flat No. 301, Nandi Panorama Apartment, OMBR Layout, Bangalore – 43 have changed my name from ASHISH to ASHISH S for all my future purposes by affidavit 14–01–2026 sworn before notary B. Seshagiri.

I, RASADULLA Baig S/o Dastagiri Sab, R/a 37/1, Mannat 7th B Main, Tunga Layout, Near Delhi Public School, Begur Hobli, Vittasandra, Bengaluru-560068 have changed my name from Rasadulla to Rasadulla Baig vide affidavit dt: 16.01.2026 sworn before Notary C.V.Earappa, B'lore.

I, K Bharath Nandan, S/o Manohara Nandan Kalava, r/at Flat No.A201, SLV Sankalpa Apt, Sy No 2, Hosa Road Opp G R Sagar Nivas, Naganathapura, Bangalore 560100 have changed my name as Bharath Nandan Kalava vide affidavit dtd 15.01.2026 sworn before Notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bluru

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI Notice Under Order V Rule 20 Code of Civil Procedure
RFA (OS) No. 24/2017 and CM No. 14207/2022, 14208/2022 Appeal against the Order dated 09.01.2017 Passed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajiv Sahai Endlaw. In Civil Suit No. 461/2016

Ms. Asha Gupta
APPELLANT(S)
VERSUS
Northern Eastern Publishing & Advertising Co. & Anr.
RESPONDENT(S)

Notice to: Ms. Sarita Madhani, Email: ragozcy@yahoo.co.uk
Ms. Sonia Khinvasra (daughter of Deceased Appellant), R/o No. 4, Skyline Residency. 5, Kingston Road, Richmond Town, Bangalore 560025 (Daughter of Deceased Appellant)

Whereas the above-noted appellant has presented an appeal under Section 96 and Order XLI rule 1 CPC read with Section 10 of Delhi High Court along with the above-mentioned application which was listed before the Court on 09.05.2017 and on other subsequent dates wherein the Court ordered issuances of notice to you.
And whereas it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that you cannot be served in the ordinary manner, notice by way of publication is hereby issued that, if you wish to defend the above-mentioned appeal and application, you may cause an appearance to be entered on your behalf either personally or through an advocate duly appointed by you for the purpose before the Court of Worthy Registrar (Appellate) on 18.02.2026 (actual) at 11:00 a.m.
If no appearance is made on your behalf, by yourself, your pleader or someone by law authorized to act for you in the said appeal and application on the aforementioned date, no further notice of the subsequent date of hearing of the said appeal and application will be given and the same will be heard and determined ex-parte in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Court on this 26th day of November, 2025.

Seal

Assistant Registrar (Appl.) (Civil) for REGISTRAR GENERAL

SATURDAY
January 17, 2026

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Timings
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SATURDAY, JAN. 17		
☀ RISE 06:46	SET 18:13	
☾ RISE 05:31	SET 16:58	
SUNDAY, JAN. 18		
☀ RISE 06:46	SET 18:14	
☾ RISE 06:20	SET 17:53	
MONDAY, JAN. 19		
☀ RISE 06:46	SET 18:14	
☾ RISE 07:08	SET 18:47	

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	29	17
Bengaluru	29	17

Bengaluru Today
30ºC The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29ºC Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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ITPB Metro Skywalk inaugurated to improve last-mile connectivity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ITPB Metro Skywalk, an elevated pedestrian corridor connecting the Pattandur Agrahara metro station on the Purple Line directly to International Tech Park Bangalore (ITPB) and Park Square Mall, was inaugurated on Friday to improve last-mile connectivity.

The skywalk is 320 feet long and is elevated 24 feet above the road. It links metro services with the business park and the adjoining mall and is expected to benefit over 55,000 professionals working in ITPB. It is also aimed at eliminating the need to cross busy roads and reduce commute times, improve pedestrian safety, and encourage greater use of public transport.

ITPB said the skywalk would improve accessibility not only for office-goers but also for residents and shoppers visiting the mall and surrounding business parks, thereby easing traffic congestion around the tech hub.

The skywalk is 320 feet long and is elevated 24 feet above the road. It links metro services with the business park and the adjoining mall, and is expected to benefit over 55,000 professionals working in ITPB. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BMRCL managing director J. Ravishankar, in a statement, said the project demonstrated the benefits of public-private collaboration. "The skywalk is a good example of effective public-private collaboration that strengthens last-mile connectivity and enhances the overall commuter experience. Pedestrian linkages between metro stations and major activity hubs are essential to strengthening last-mile connectivity, improving the commuter experience, and encouraging the use of public transport, all of which support sustainable urban mobility in Bengaluru," he said.

Yellow Line train derails

Meanwhile, a Yellow Line train reportedly derailed inside the Hebbagodi depot on the morning of January 15, damaging a few sleepers and a section of the third rail. The incident is suspected to have occurred owing to a signalling fault while the train was entering the main line.

BMRCL has not issued an official statement on the incident. However, officials said that services on the Yellow Line were not affected and that all seven trains are operating as per schedule.

Balagere residents forced to take up road cleaning drive again

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Sridhar Mudooru, a senior IT employee who stays near Gunjur and works at an MNC on Outer Ring Road (ORR), was in for a rude shock on his way back from work on January 12.

Mr. Mudooru, who commutes on the Panathur Road-CDP Road, was thrown off balance after his scooter fell into a pothole, one of the many that plague the stretch. He was left with multiple fractures on his right arm.

"Doctors say that I may not be able to work for another two months at least, and it would take a minimum of six months for my hand to return to its normal state," he says.

Two-wheeler accidents have become common along the Balagere-Varthur-Gunjur corridor. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Two-wheeler accidents have become common along the Balagere-Varthur-Gunjur corridor, owing to the poor condition of roads that feature multiple potholes and plumes of dust caused by mud and silt. Tired of the official apathy, residents of the locality will hold a cleaning drive in the area to highlight the plight of the roads, under the banner TejaVeera Yodha, on Saturday.

A persistent problem

The key demands of the drive include a dedicated annual road maintenance plan for the key arterial roads across Balegere, Gunjur, Varthur, Panathur, and Sarjapur and immediate deployment of mechanised sweeping machines or adequately equipped manual teams with tractors for regular removal of roadside silt and dust.

Other demands include asphalting of roads from Balagere T-junction to Varthur police station, Bhoganahalli Road up to Gear International School and inner-lane roads in Panathur, and urgent road resurfacing of SH-35 (Varthur Road).

"The condition of the roads in this area has been abysmally poor for years now. Even when the Deputy Chief Minister promised to fill up all the potholes in the city, this stretch was neglected," says Mr. Mudooru.

If earlier, lack of fund allocation was the reason cited by officials, lately it has morphed into allocated funds being insufficient. According to officials, the allocated sum is insufficient to repair the whole of the approximately 55-km stretch.

"The Deputy Chief Minister had announced ₹8 crore for Balagere Road alone. But asphalting has been done only partly. On Saturday, we will be gathering where the situation is still bad," said Swetha Rangaswamy, a Balagere resident, convener at TejaVeera Yodha and a core member of the Individual Taxpayers' Forum.

Yet another issue is the storm of dust in the area caused by heaps of mud and silt on the roads and the sides, causing increasing instances of respiratory issues for the residents.

"Several tipper lorries move on the road, carrying silt and mud. The spillover from them has deteriorated the condition of the roads. In July we did a cleaning drive, which the Deputy Chief Minister had posted about on his X handle. Following this, officials ensured that cleaning was done for one week. Then it all stopped again. A sum of ₹613.25 crore was cleared by the Cabinet recently for sweeping machines. Where is the impact?" Ms. Rangaswamy questioned.

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COVER

Lalatendu Mishra

GETTY IMAGES

Coastal road as luxury code

How new transport links and metros are reducing travel time and redrawing Mumbai's real estate hierarchy

Over the last eight years in Mumbai, large-scale infrastructure developments, including the Coastal Road, the Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link, underground and elevated metros, and flyovers, have driven up real estate prices in the city. This has led to the creation of ultra-luxury real estate micro-markets, such as Worli, Versova, and perhaps the entire western seafront.

This is a significant development as even in the distant western suburb of Kandivali East, in North Mumbai, a penthouse recently cost ₹54,000 per sq.ft., which is very close to prices in Colaba in South Mumbai. This could be an isolated deal.

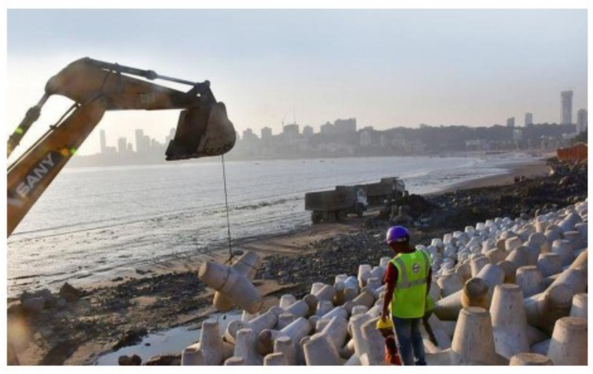
The partially operational Coastal Road is an eight-lane expressway that passes through the western coastline of the city, connecting Marine Lines [close to Nariman Point] in South Mumbai to Kandilavi in North Mumbai. Phase I, spanning 10.58 km, is now open between Worli and Marine Lines. This has certainly changed the dynamics.

A transformative infrastructure project integrating high-speed, uninterrupted transport with access to the public has started doing wonders for Worli, once a nondescript industrial zone.

According to a December 2025 report by real estate consulting firm ANAROCK, Worli has emerged as India's ultra-luxury capital, recording ₹5,500 crore in high-end home sales (30 units) over two years and capturing 40% of more than ₹40 crore apartment deals nationally.

Isha Ambani's sprawling bungalow faces the Coastal Road, as does the Naman Xana tower, built by Shree Naman Group, which is under construction.

"The Coastal Road and Bandra-Worli Sea Link have driven Worli and Marine Drive prices up 20%-30% over the past two years. The premium units command ₹65,000 to ₹1 lakh per sq.ft., matching Lower Manhattan pricing," says Anuj Puri, chairman, ANAROCK Group.



Two duplexes in Naman Xana were sold for ₹700 crore. Over 20 residential transactions in Worli were individually priced above ₹100 crore in the last three years alone.

In Worli, one could buy a less-than-1,000 sq.ft. flat for about ₹8 crore, while ultra-premium residences spread across 4,000 sq.ft. are priced above ₹32 crore.

Nearly 5 million sq.ft. of premium residential and retail space is reportedly under construction, with an estimated ₹69,000 crore investment in completed or ongoing infrastructure projects now ribboning through the Worli micro-market. Prices have gone up sharply, according to ANAROCK.

"Earlier, growth was largely driven by proximity, where people paid a premium to live closer to work because time was the biggest luxury. Today, infrastructure has begun to change that equation," says Cyrus Mody, founder and CEO, Viceroy Properties.

Mody adds that Versova is a strong example of how infrastructure reshapes micro-markets. As the Coastal Road extends northwards and integrates with metro corridors and key arterial links, Versova's connectivity to South Mumbai and major commercial districts is set to improve dramatically.

"The landmark projects have fundamentally altered how the city functions, connects, and values space. Infrastructure today is not merely about enabling growth; it is actively recalibrating how the city is experienced and priced," says Niranjan Hiranandani, chairman of Hiranandani Group & NAREDCO.

The Coastal Road has significantly reduced travel time between South Mumbai and the western suburbs, re-rating locations such as Worli and Prabhadevi into globally comparable luxury waterfront destinations. In addition to Versova, improved east-west and north-south connectivity through metro corridors has unlocked new value across areas like Andheri, and even micro-markets further north, adds Hiranandani.

"The Mumbai Metro expansion has generated 15%-25% property appreciation near stations, while the Trans Harbour Link is unlocking Navi Mumbai's potential with expected 15%-20% price increases in Ulwe and Kharghar," Puri says.

"ANAROCK's Q4 2024 data confirms Mumbai's dominance as India's costliest market at ₹16,600 per sq.ft., significantly outpacing Bengaluru's ₹8,380 per sq.ft.," adds Puri.

"We have to be thankful to the State government for providing stability and transforming the city. It has had a massive benefit in terms of pricing and people considering living here," says Tariq Ahmed, CEO (West India), Prestige Group. Not to be left behind, the Bengaluru-based Prestige Group recently entered the Mumbai market and has started building marquee projects in Marine Drive and Worli with housing units priced between ₹30 crore and ₹45 crore and above.

Prakash Patel, chairman and managing director of Bhumi World, says connectivity enhancements across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) have reduced commute times and opened up corridors that were once seen as inconvenient. "Naturally, this has boosted confidence among both homebuyers and businesses, contributing to a consistent uptick in property values. With MMRDA's involvement, processes such as plan approvals have become more streamlined, and financial institutions are extending loans more easily. Lifestyle elements from dining to retail have also expanded, prompting more professionals to relocate closer to their workplaces," he says.

Stating that projects are "collapsing travel times and redrawing mental maps of the city," Vijay Choraria, managing director, Crest Ventures Ltd, a listed real estate company, says that as commuting friction reduces, luxury demand is moving away from legacy pincodes alone and going towards well-connected nodes that offer scale, openness, and long-term urban relevance.

Mumbai is also witnessing the emergence of a second, equally compelling luxury narrative – iconic golf course-facing developments. This mirrors global benchmarks seen in cities like London, Dubai, and Singapore.

"In India, this format has, so far, been visible largely in Gurugram; Mumbai is now entering that league through locations such as Chembur and Mahalaxmi, where expansive, landscaped golf course views are being integrated into high-density urban living," says Choraria. According to analysts, what is increasingly visible is a buyer shift toward locations where infrastructure tangibly improves daily mobility and livability.

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PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/281125/008287 G+14 JIGANI 5 MINS. APC CIRCLE ₹ 58.45 - 92.06 Lakhs* 8880 003 003	PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/150224/006622 G+14 WHITEFIELD SOUKYA ROAD ₹ 70.65 L - 1.06 Cr* 8880 461 461	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006973 G+14 BANNERGHATTA RD. NEAR KOPPA GATE ₹ 62.42 - 82.18 Lakhs* 8880 013 310	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660 G+4 SARJAPURA SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE ROAD ₹ 63.60 - 83.25 Lakhs* 8880 003 003	PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721 G+14 MYSORE ROAD NEAR CHALLAGHATTA METRO STN. ₹ 67.28 - 95.28 Lakhs* 8880 461 461	Visit our website or talk to our advisors for the complete portfolio

Disclaimer: Information provided in this advertisement is for reference only, and all data is sourced internally. The images, illustrations, and artist's impressions used in this advertisement are for representational purposes only. The prices mentioned are indicative and base prices. Any offers, discounts, or incentives mentioned in this advertisement are subject to specific terms and conditions. All taxes, registration charges, stamp duty, and any other statutory payments are applicable as per government regulations. All directions, locations, and landmarks are approximate. Please use reliable resources for accurate travel times. Mentioning a specific product, process, or service does not imply endorsement. Please contact our Sales Team for detailed information about specific projects, pricing, availability, and other inquiries. DS-MAX Properties ensures that all its projects comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and its regulations. Visit : www.rera.karnataka.gov.in

*T & C Apply

BG-BGE

Six PG facilities sealed by Central Corporation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Six paying guest (PG) facilities were sealed by the Central City Corporation on Friday for allegedly failing to maintain basic hygiene standards. The corporation has imposed fines amounting to ₹1.96 lakh on these facilities.

The inspections were led by Health Officer Shivakumar along with medical officers from Chickpet and Shivajinagar. As part of the drive, officials inspected 204 facilities located in Shivajinagar and Chickpet Assembly constituencies. The inspections focused on the availability of basic facilities.

GBA chief reviews Republic Day preparations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has instructed the officials concerned to undertake necessary preparations for the state-level Republic Day celebrations.

Addressing a meeting held today at the GBA Head Office to review the preliminary arrangements for the 2026 Republic Day celebrations at the Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground in the city, he issued several directions.

He instructed that efforts to clean the place must be taken up at the Manekshaw Parade Ground, as there is a lot of debris at the ground. Water should be sprinkled to suppress dust and rolling should be carried out, he said. He also directed officials to install temporary toilets for the convenience of the public.

On the day of the event, proper seating arrangements must be made for the chief guests, dignitaries, officials, and the general public. In view of the heat, adequate pandal arrangements should be provided.

He emphasised that clear arrangements must be made for the entry through the designated gates and for vehicle parking, ensuring that no lapses occur.

He directed that essential facilities such as drinking water, fire safety arrangements, police security, and CCTV surveillance be provided adequately on the day of the Republic Day celebrations. He also instructed that cultural programs should be conducted smoothly.

The meeting was attended by Special Commissioner (Administration) K. Harish Kumar, Central City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan, Additional Commissioner Daljit Kumar, Deputy Commissioner Ravindra, Joint Commissioner Hemanth Sharan, and other officials.

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA EXAMINATIONS AUTHORITY
Sampige Road, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 012.
Website:http://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/ e-mail: keauthority-ka@nic.in

No. :ED/KEA/ADMN/CR-04/2026-27 Date: 16-01-2026

NOTIFICATION
ADMISSION TO PROFESSIONAL COURSES IN THE STATE OF KARNATAKA FOR THE YEAR - 2026

As per Rule 3, Rule 6(3) & Rule 7 of *Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules 2006 (Amendments)* and pursuant to the directions of the Government, Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) is inviting applications from the eligible Karnataka candidates for ***"Common Entrance Test-2026"*** for the purpose of determining the eligibility / merit, for admission to the First year or First semester of full time courses for Government share of seats in Engineering, Bachelor of Yoga and Naturopathy (BNYS), B.Sc. (Nursing), Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (B.V.Sc. & A.H.),Farm Science courses i.e., [i.e., B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture, B.Sc. (Hons) Sericulture, B.Sc. (Hons) Horticulture, B.Sc (Hons) Forestry, B.Tech (Bio-Technology), B.Sc.(Hons) Community Science, B.Tech (Agricultural Engineering), B.Tech (Food Technology), B.Tech (D. Tech), B.F.Sc (Fisheries), B.Sc. (Hons) Agri. Business Management] B. Pharma, Pharma-D, 2nd year B-Pharma (Lateral Entry) courses in Government / University / Private Aided / Private Un-Aided Professional Educational Institutions in the State of Karnataka for the academic year 2026-27 as per the seat matrix to be notified by Government.

1. In order to become eligible to obtain admission through KEA to the above mentioned professional courses, a candidate must register for ***CET-2026,*** fill the application through online, pay the application fees, download the admission ticket and appear for the Common Entrance Test-2026 conducted by KEA, Bangalore. *Online application is an application-cum-verification module. Hence, the candidates are advised to fill all the details carefully. After submission of application, details of the claims "Claim Certificate" will be printed.*
2. After confirmation of the prescribed seven years of study (including 10th class or 2nd PUC/12th class) for eligibility to Government seats under Eligibility Clause-a, the status "Successfully Verified" will be mentioned in the Claim Certificate. Such candidates will be able to print the CET-2026 application form from their candidate portal. These candidates are not required to visit any office or college for document verification. After the declaration of the CET-2026 results, the verification slip will be made available for download.
3. Candidate who claims eligibility clause-a, and Claimed reservation for having studied (a) 10 full academic years in Kannada medium from 1st standard to 10th standard; (b) 10 full academic years in rural areas from 1st standard to 10th standard; (c) 10 years from 1st standard to 12th standard for Tulu, Tamil, Telugu, Kodava Linguistic Minority reservation; or (d) Religious Minority (Muslim / Christian) reservation; for these candidates, after submitting the application only the claim slip will be downloaded in the first instance, (Claimed Verified OR Claimed not verified OR not Claimed" will be printed on the Claims Certificate) and at this stage, there is no provision to print the application. These candidates should get their documents verified by submitting all the documents at the college where they are presently studying or in any Government college. After verifying in the respective college, the candidates will be allowed to log in to the portal and print the CET-2026 application form.
4. Details of Subjects to appear in CET-2026 for various Professional Courses.

Sl. No.	For Admission to 1st Year	Subjects to appear in CET-2026
i	Engineering / Technology courses	Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics (PCM)
ii	Farm Science courses i.e., [i.e., B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture, B.Sc. (Hons) Sericulture, B.Sc. (Hons) Horticulture, B.Sc (Hons) Forestry, B.Tech (Bio-Technology), B.Sc.(Hons) Community Science, B.Tech (Agricultural Engineering), B.Tech (Food Technology), B.Tech (D. Tech), B.F.Sc (Fisheries), B.Sc. (Hons) Agri. Business Management]	Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology (PCMB)
iii	Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Naturopathy & Yoga and B.Sc. (Nursing)	Physics, Chemistry, Biology (PCB)
iv	B-Pharma, 2nd Year B. Pharma, Pharma-D	PCM or PCB

5. CANDIDATES TO APPEAR ENTRANCE EXAM FOR OTHER COURSES - 2026

i	Medical, Dental and AYUSH	UGNEET	Candidates must compulsorily register for CET-2026, fill the application and pay the fees to become eligible to participate in the KEA counselling.
ii	Architecture	NATA	
iii	For admission to D.Pharma, B.P.T., B.Sc. Allied Health Sciences, BPO courses - Selection is based on PU Marks	NO Entrance Exam – but they must compulsorily register for CET-2026 and fill the application and pay the fees to become eligible to participate in the counselling.	

6. As per Government order No. MED 51 RGU 2023 dated 13-04-2023 for admission to B.Sc. (Nursing) courses, Karnataka and non-Karnataka candidates have to appear for Common Entrance Test conducted by KEA. The non-Karnataka candidates will not be eligible for admission to engineering stream courses through KEA and they will also be not eligible for reservation.

Before registering through online for admission to any Professional courses in the state of Karnataka, applicants are hereby informed to read the Information Bulletin and understand the eligibility conditions, classification of seats (different types of category of seats) and eligibility to claim such seats.

Eligibility: As per Rule 5(1) of *Karnataka Selection of Candidates for Admission to Government seats in Professional Educational Institutions Rules 2006 (Amendments)*, No candidate shall be eligible for admission to Government Seats unless he is a citizen of India and satisfies any one of the eligibility conditions specified therein. The candidates who do not satisfy any of the Clauses / Eligibility Criteria are not eligible for admission to professional courses under Government quota seats through KEA. Eligibility for OCI / PIO candidates for Government seats shall be as per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP No.891 /2021.

7. UGCET-2026-Information Bulletin consisting of details about mode of submission of application through online, eligibility clauses, academic eligibility criteria etc will be hosted on the KEA Website **https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/** for the information of the candidates. Candidates can download the same from KEA Website.
8. Schedule for online application – payment of fees for CET-2026.

i.	Commencement of Registration and filling of Application-cum-verification module	**From 11.00 am on 17-01-2026**
ii.	Last date to fill the application online	**16-02-2026 up to 11.59 pm**
iii.	Last date to pay the application fees-online	**18-02-2026**
iv.	Downloading of Admission Tickets	**From 11.00 am onwards on 10-04-2026**

COMMON ENTRANCE TEST – 2026 TIME TABLE

Date	Day	Timings	Subject	Marks / Questions
23-04-2026	Thursday	10.30 am – 11.50 am	Physics	60
		02.30 pm – 03.50 pm	Chemistry	60
24-04-2026	Friday	10.30 am – 11.50 am	Mathematics	60
		02.30 pm – 03.50 pm	Biology	60
Kannada Language Test FOR HORANADU AND GADINADU KANNADIGA CANDIDATES at Bengaluru, Belagavi, Bijapura, Mangalore Districts only				
22-04-2026	Wednesday	10.30 am to 11.30 am	4th Standard level	50

NOTE:

a. The question papers of the Common Entrance Test-2026 will be based on the First and Second PUC syllabi prescribed by the Department of Pre-University Education of Karnataka State. Regarding the syllabus to be adopted for Common Entrance Test-2026, the subject experts of the Department of School Education (Pre-University) have reviewed the Syllabus of PCMB subjects adopted for the 1st and 2nd PUC classes in Karnataka state and the syllabus to be adopted for CET-2026 will be published on the KEA Website for the information of the students.
b. *Candidates can clarify their doubts regarding filling of online application at their respective colleges in Karnataka.*
c. The "CET-2026 Diksuchi" (**"ಸಿಇಟಿ–2026 ದಿಕ್ಸೂಚಿ"**), containing brief information about CET-2026, will be distributed to every student in the state at their college.

Sd/- (H. Prasanna, IAS)
Executive Director.

DIPR/CP/5067/2025-26

http://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/ keaauthority.ka@nic.in
https://x.com/kea_karnataka https://www.youtube.com/@keavikasana
KEA Helpline Nos.: 080 – 23 460 460 (8 Lines) 8.00 am to 8.00 pm (except General Holidays)

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
ATALJI JANASNEHI DIRECTORATE
SSLR BUILDING, K.R.CIRCLE, BENGALURU-560001

No: RC-AJSK0ADMN(TEN)/1/2025/E-1676223 Date: 16.01.2026

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from reputed firms for procurement of Skilled Manpower Resource to Atalji Janasnehi Directorate.
The tender documents and related information can be obtained from e-Procurement portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 17/01/2026.**

Sd/-
Additional Director,
Atal Janasnehi Directorate, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/SPAN/5064/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Joint Commissioner, Zone-1, Mayo Hall, Mayo Hall Premises, Bengaluru-560001

No.: BCCC/JC-1/TEND/02/2025-26 Date: 16.01.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Re Call)
(Only through KPPP Portal) Two Cover System

The Joint Commissioner (Zone-1), BCCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors from registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Government Organizations for the work as detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Data Entry Operators to Offices under the Joint Commissioner Zone-1, Mayo Hall, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560001. (to be deployed to the BCCC Offices spread across) (No. of Data Entry Operators required - 60) **EMD (in Rupees): 5,00,000.00.**

Calendar of events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka from: **27.01.2026. (2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **02.02.2026** at **4:00 p.m.** in the Office of the Joint Commissioner -1, BCCC, Residency Road, Mayo Hall Premises, Bengaluru. **(3)** The tenders must be submitted online through KPPP Portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **12.02.2026** and the opening of the tenders will be as per e-procurement portal guidelines. **(4)** Technical bids will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the Office of the Joint Commissioner, Zone-1, BCCC, Bengaluru on **16.02.2026** at **4:00 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-, Joint Commissioner, Zone-1, BCCC

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, WIRELESS
No.1, M. G. Road, Bengaluru - 560001
Phone: +91-80-22864626, E-mail: spwireless@ksp.gov.in

NO: 06/MDN/STS/W/DIGITALVHF Rptr & WT/2025-26 Date: 16.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through K.P.P Portal Only)

1. Tender No: **KSP/2025-26/IND0443/CALL-2, Date: 07/01/2026**
Name of Work: Superintendent of Police, Wireless, Bengaluru has invited a tender for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital VHF Repeaters and Digital VHF Walkie-Talkies for different units of Karnataka State Police through e-procurement portal. Estimated Bid value: **Rs. 69.60 Lakhs. (1)** Last date and time for submission of Pre bid queries is **21/01/2026 at 17.30 Hrs. (2)** The Last date and time for tender submission is **06/02/2026, at 16.00 Hrs.**
2. Tender No: **KSP/2025-26/IND0444/CALL-2, Date: 07/01/2026**
Name of Work: Superintendent of Police, Wireless, Bengaluru has invited a tender for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital VHF/ UHF Repeaters for different units of Karnataka State Police through e-procurement portal. Estimated Bid value: **Rs. 27.00 Lakhs. (1)** Last date and time for submission of Pre bid queries is **21/01/2026 at 17.30 Hrs. (2)** The Last date and time for tender submission is **06/02/2026, at 16.00 Hrs.**
3. Tender No: **KSP/2025-26/IND0440/CALL-2, Date: 13/01/2026**
Name of Work: Superintendent of Police, Wireless, Bengaluru has invited a tender for Supply of Dry Chemical Powder - DCP type class ABC Portable Fire Extinguisher 9kg for Karnataka State Police through e-procurement portal. Estimated Bid value: **Rs. 87.50 Lakhs. (1)** Last date and time for submission of Pre bid queries is **16/01/2026 at 17.00 Hrs. (2)** The Last date and time for tender submission is **21/01/2026, at 17.00 Hrs.**
4. Tender No: **KSP/2025-26/IND0494, Date: 14/01/2026**
Name of Work: Additional Director General of Police, Communications, Logistics & Modernization, Bengaluru has invited a tender for Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital VHF Radio Communication Network for Bagalakote District through e-procurement portal. Estimated Bid value: **Rs. 444.45 Lakhs. (1)** Pre-bid meeting on **21/01/2026 at 11.30 Hrs. (2)** The Last date and time for tender submission is **13/02/2026, at 17.00 Hrs.**
5. Tender No: **KSP/2025-26/IND0495, Date: 14/01/2026**
Name of Work: Additional Director General of Police, Communications, Logistics & Modernization, Bengaluru has invited a tender for Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital VHF Radio Communication Network for Hassan District through e-procurement portal. Estimated Bid value: **Rs. 417.05 Lakhs. (1)** Pre-bid meeting on **21/01/2026 at 11.30 Hrs. (2)** The Last date and time for tender submission is **13/02/2026, at 17.00 Hrs.**
6. Tender No: **KSP/2025-26/IND0496, Date: 14/01/2026**
Name of Work: Additional Director General of Police, Communications, Logistics & Modernization, Bengaluru has invited a tender for Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital VHF Radio Communication Network for Kalaburagi District through e-procurement portal. Estimated Bid value: **Rs. 429.80 Lakhs. (1)** Pre-bid meeting on **21/01/2026 at 11.30 Hrs. (2)** The Last date and time for tender submission is **13/02/2026, at 17.00 Hrs.**
7. Tender No: **KSP/2025-26/IND0497, Date: 14/01/2026**
Name of Work: Additional Director General of Police, Communications, Logistics & Modernization, Bengaluru has invited a tender for Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Digital VHF Radio Communication Network for Shivamogga District through e-procurement portal. Estimated Bid value: **Rs. 476.42 Lakhs. (1)** Pre-bid meeting on **21/01/2026 at 11.30 Hrs. (2)** The Last date and time for tender submission is **13/02/2026, at 17.00 Hrs.**

Further details can be obtained by visiting e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For more information, please contact the above office.

Sd/-
Superintendent of Police,
Wireless, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5065/SPAN COM/2025-26

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand. Ph No.: +91-651-2225878,
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752, e-mail ld-juidcolimited@gmail.com

Project Name: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for Preparation of Alternative Analysis Report (AAR) & Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Transit Corridors in Ranchi, Jharkhand
NIT No.: JUIDCO/ NIT/ AAR/ RNC/ 2025- 681
PR No.: 368649
Tender ID: 2025_UDD_107917_1
This is for information of all the bidders that following Corrigendum is being made in the subjected tender.
The bidders are advised to take into account the following Corrigendum before submission of their bids against this tender.

Corrigendum - 2

Sl. No.	Bid Document Ref.	Description	As per Corrigendum 1	As per Corrigendum 2
1.	NIT	Last Date & Time of submission of Bid, Tender Fee and EMD online	15.01.2026 at 17:00 Hrs	21.01.2026 at 17:00 Hrs
2.		Date & Time of Bid Opening	16.01.2026 at 17:00 Hrs	22.01.2026 at 17:00 Hrs

Note: Other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Ltd.

PR 370841 Urban Development and Housing(25-26)#D

Govt. of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board
Science & Technology Campus, Sirkha Toli, Namkum-Tupudana Road, Namkum, Ranchi – 834010
Website : https://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in e-mail : jceceboard@gmail.com

Advt. No. :–JCECEB/28/25-02 ,Ranchi/Dated: 16/01/2026

Indicative information regarding Additional Round of Online Counselling for admission to B.H.M.S. Course
PRESS COMMUNIQUE

In compliance with direction issued by National Commission for Homoeopathy, New Delhi regarding Additional Round of Counselling for the B.H.M.S. course vide File No.-22/1/ 2024-NCH/14565-14576 dated-13.01.2026, the Board will organise online counselling for vacant All India seats in B.H.M.S. course of Private Homeopathic Medical Colleges of the Jharkhand State as per the Notification which can be seen on the NCH website.

Detailed information in this regard has been uploaded under "Important Notice" column at **Board's website http://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in.**

By the order of Controller of Examination,
Sd/-
(Ranjeeta Hembrom, J.A.S.)
Dy. Controller of Examination

PR.NO.370840 Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board(25-26):D

Govt. of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board
Science & Technology Campus, Sirkha Toli, Namkum-Tupudana Road, Namkum, Ranchi – 834010
Website : https://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in e-mail : jceceboard@gmail.com

Advt. No. :–JCECEB/46 /25 -03 Ranchi/Dated: 16/01/2026

Notice regarding Merit List Preparation for Additional Round of Online Counselling for Post-Graduate (Homoeopathic) All India Seats of Devki Mahavir Homeopathic Medical College & Research Hospital, Garhwa on the basis of AIAPGET- 2025 Result
PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India has extended the cut-off date/last date for admission in Post-Graduate (Homoeopathic) courses to 23 Jan 2026 vide Letter No.- AA-13015/1/2026-EP-1 dated 13.01.2026.

(2) In compliance with the above directions, the Board will invite online applications at the All India Level on the basis of the All India Merit List and accordingly prepare the Merit List for admission in vacant PG (Homoeopathic) seats. The same will be forwarded to the concerned College/University for admission.

(3) **Merit List preparation for Additional Round of Online Counselling: -** It will be organized as per below schedule:–

S. N.	Activity	Schedule
a.	Online Application Form Submission by Interested & Eligible candidates [By clicking on "Click here for All Online Application Submission-JCECEB 2025" on Board's website http://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in]	**17.01.2026 to 19.01.2026**
b.	Publication of Merit List for Additional Round	**20.01.2026**
c.	The Merit List will be forwarded to the concerned College/University for admission	**20.01.2026**

4. **Counselling will be held as per the guidelines issued by AACCC/NCH New Delhi.**
5. **Candidates who have been admitted through any rounds of Ayush (PG) All India/state counselling are ineligible to participate in this Additional Round counselling.**
6. **It is mandatory for the candidate to upload Score Card of Post Graduate (Homoeopathic)-2025.**
7. **Registration/Application Fee:-** Candidate will have to pay Registration/Application Fee by Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking/UPI through Payment Gateway as per below which will be non-refundable:-

(a) Application/Registration Fee :-

Sl. No.	Category	Rate
1.	All Indian candidates	` 1000/–
2.	SC @ST@Female candidates of jharkhand state	` 500/–
3.	Divyang candidate	–

8. The other terms and conditions of advertisement no. JCECEB/46/25-89 dated-19.09.2025 uploaded on the Board's website will remain same. This advertisement can be seen under "Important Notice" Column.

By the order of Controller of Examination,
Sd/- (Ranjeeta Hembrom, J.A.S.)
Dy. Controller of Examination

PR.NO.370849 Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board(25-26):D

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2,
1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.

No: DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/25/2025-26 Date: 16-01-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Tenderers for the Operation and Maintenance Services for the works mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for Services through KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per standard bid document. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rupees)	Stipulated Period of Service Contract
1	Operation and Maintenance of 150 TPD Capacity Wet Waste Processing Plant Located at Lingadheeranahalli for a period of 24 Months. **(Call-3).**	**992.46**	**Rs. 1,00,000/-** through e-Payment under of the following i.e., Online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the Balance **Rs. 13,88,700/-** by Bank Guarantee / FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank	**24 Months**

NOTE: 1) The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderer's responsibility to verify the KPP Portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.** KPP Portal help desk Telephone Numbers are: **080-22371090 / 22373788.** The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP Portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches. **2)** Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be published in the KPP Portal only. **3) Calendar of events:**

Date of Pre Bid Meeting	**23-01-2026 at 15.00 Hours. at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore-560052.**
Last Date for Submission of Bids	**04-02-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.**
Date of Opening of Technical Bid	**05-02-2026 at 16.30 Hours.**
Date of Opening of Financial Bid	**Will be notified to Technically Qualified Bidders.**

More details can be downloaded from Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML

DIPR/CP/5055/Adverto/2025-26

Central prison on the brink of systemic failure, says report

Prison reform committee conducts a review after videos went viral showing inmates, including notorious criminals and a terror suspect, allegedly receiving preferential treatment inside the jail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of the central prison in Bengaluru.

The prison reform committee, headed by ADGP (Law and Order) R. Hitendra, submitted its findings to Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Thursday, warning that the central prison is on the brink of systemic failure.

The review was ordered after videos went viral showing inmates, including notorious criminals and a terror suspect, allegedly receiving preferential treatment inside the prison.

The panel also reviewed other central prisons in the State – Mysuru, Shivamogga, Ballari, and Kalaburagi – and compared them with best practices at the Tihar jail in Delhi and the Chanchalguda pPrison in Telangana. According to the report, Parappana Agrahara houses 4,834 inmates, but has only 571 staff members, leaving 388 sanctioned posts vacant. This results in a prisoner-staff ratio of 1:9, exceeding the 1:6 ratio prescribed under the Model Prison Manual. When calculated per shift, the ratio worsens to 1:27, with one officer overseeing nearly 30 inmates at a time.

Other central prisons also fall short of safety norms. The Mysuru prison houses 774 inmates with 133 staff, while Ballari has 457 inmates and just 93 staff.

The committee has recommended immediate filling of vacant posts, compulsory staff rotation every three years with a two-year cooling-off period, and annual modern training programmes.

Mobile smuggling

The panel noted that mobile phone smuggling continues unabated at Parappana Agrahara, largely because existing jammers cannot block 5G signals. This persists despite a 2021 Karnataka High Court directive mandating strict control over mobile phone usage in prisons.

The committee recommended upgrading to 5G-compatible jammers, deploying portable low-intensity jammers in blind spots, and placing all jammer controls strictly under the Chief Superintendent.

Between January 2021 and November 15, 2025, 154 FIRs were registered in Bengaluru relating to illegal activities in central prisons. All these cases remain pending at the police station level, the report noted. The committee flagged serious infrastructure deficiencies at Parappana Agrahara, including the absence of a buffer zone, boundary walls measuring less than 20 feet in some stretches, and watchtowers that are too low for effective monitoring.

It recommended raising boundary walls to 30 feet, installing fine-mesh anti-throwing nets, adding solar fencing and increasing the height of watchtowers.

Surveillance inside the prison was described as "critically weak." Parappana Agrahara has only 332 CCTV cameras, covering about 6.6% of inmates, compared with over 8,600 cameras at Tihar jail. Most barracks are not monitored, while toilets have no CCTV camera coverage except for limited voice-recording devices.

The panel recommended round-the-clock monitoring, AI-enabled cameras to detect prohibited activities, body-worn cameras for staff, and the establishment of a central command centre.

Overcrowding

Delays in construction at prisons in Shivamogga, Vijayapura, and other locations have worsened overcrowding, forcing inmates into already congested barracks. The committee stressed the need to expedite all pending prison infrastructure projects.

It also highlighted welfare and administrative shortcomings, including the lack of vocational training, poor segregation of first-time offenders and habitual criminals, suboptimal deployment of female staff, irregular meetings of Prison Visitor Boards and unresolved FIRs.

Other concerns flagged include unauthorised food and parcel inflow, weak internal intelligence, unnecessary medical referrals and informal lawyer visits without CCTV camera coverage.

Sources in the department said while the recommendations emphasises technological upgradation and infrastructure development, they fall short in addressing human resource management—considered a critical factor in curbing irregularities and corruption within the prisons department.

According to senior prison officials, the absence of transparency in staff transfers and the non-existence of a Prison Establishment Board have significantly weakened internal discipline and accountability. Officials pointed out that a dedicated Prison Establishment Board, on the lines of the Police Establishment Board, was proposed to ensure transparent transfers through counselling and systematic deployment of personnel.

Mr. Hitendra was unavailable for comments.

BNP launches 'Mission 50' and aims to win 50 wards

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Friday SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) on Friday launched its 'Mission 50' campaign for the upcoming Greater Bengaluru elections, expressing confidence that it will win at least 50 wards.

The BNP pledged to usher in a new era of citizen-led governance, empowering local communities to shape decisions that directly impact neighbourhoods and the city's future. "Comprising civic leaders, professionals, urban experts, entrepreneurs, and grassroots organisers, we position ourselves as a governance-first alternative to legacy political parties. The party believes that winning 50 wards will give it the critical mass required to influence decision-making within the corporation and institutionalise neighbourhood-level accountability through Area Sabhas," the BNP said in a statement.

The Mission 50 campaign aims to revive and empower Area Sabhas, as envisaged under the 74th Constitutional Amendment. Srikanth Narasimhan, founder and general secretary of the BNP, emphasised the need for a fundamental shift in the way the city is governed. "We are bringing corporate discipline to public service. We are not here to play 'politics as usual'; we are here to manage our home professionally and transparently," he added.

The BNP has already activated ward teams and Area Sabha leadership across more than 75 wards, working year-round to identify civic issues, coordinate with departments, monitor implementation, and ensure follow-up. "The party's priorities include decentralised ward-level governance, resolving everyday issues locally, and ensuring transparency through strict adherence to the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act," the statement mentioned.

Woman sets herself and 4-year-old daughter on fire; both die

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 29-year-old woman and her four-year-old daughter died at their house in Sanjay Nagar after the former allegedly set both of them on fire following a dispute with her husband on Thursday.

The deceased have been identified as Seetha and her daughter Srishti.

According to the police, Seetha and her husband, Govind Bahadur, natives of Nepal, were working as domestic help at a house in Sanjay Nagar. Govind Bahadur frequently travelled to Nepal and would remain there for several months at a time. This reportedly led to frequent fights between the couple. On Wednesday evening, Seetha allegedly had an argument with Bahadur over the phone. Following this, Seetha is said to have poured petrol on herself and the child before lighting the fire.

Sanjay Nagar Police have registered a case.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: Tele Manas 14416 or 18008914416 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Neglected: Families in Vinayaka Layout in T.C. Palya and around the slum board at Laggere in Bengaluru continue to live in unsanitary conditions. When major projects begin, workers are mobilised through contractors for work that can last years. With no housing provision attached and rents far beyond their wages, workers settle close to the site. Temporary shelters gradually become stable communities. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The making of a slum

Despite repeated promises of 'housing for all' and affordable housing policies, Karnataka has consistently failed to ensure dignified housing for the poor in the growing city of Bengaluru, writes **Rishita Khanna**

How do slums mushroom? In Bengaluru, this question is usually asked only after bulldozers arrive – once homes are razed, livelihoods disrupted, and families pushed out overnight.

On December 20, the Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), acting with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), demolished over 160 houses in Kogilu, north Bengaluru. Multiple surveys followed – by government agencies, the Housing Department, and NGOs, but nearly a month later, no rehabilitation or interim housing has been provided. Families remain displaced, living with relatives or on the margins of nearby neighbourhoods.

How informal settlements emerge

Unlike cities such as Delhi or Mumbai, where nearly half the population lives in informal settlements, Bengaluru has seen a sharp rise in such habitations in recent decades. This, Clifton D'Rozario, advocate and general secretary of the All India Lawyers' Association for Justice, explained, is directly linked to the failure of successive Union and State governments to provide public housing.

Despite repeated promises of "housing for all" and affordable housing policies, the State has consistently failed to ensure dignified housing for the urban poor. With rural distress, agrarian crisis, caste-based exclusion, and lack of livelihood opportunities pushing people out of villages, and cities pulling them in for labour, informal settlements become inevitable, he said. "Nobody wants to live next to a drain, under a tin roof or a tarpaulin sheet. People, their families, are forced into such conditions only when every option is closed off," he says, stressing that demolitions without addressing public housing and agrarian distress will only perpetuate the cycle.

Infrastructure projects require labour over several years. In Bengaluru, where projects are known to miss deadlines, work does not end, but only shifts, overlaps, and expands. Labour stays because work stays. A slum typically begins as a temporary shelter near a worksite.

Gangaraju M., a resident of Vinayaka Layout, said his grandparents had migrated to the settlement from Narayanpet in Telangana around 35 years ago, when a tech park was coming up in K.R. Puram. He recalled that a contractor involved in the project had allowed families working under him to stay there.

However, he said repeated representations to the Slum Board seeking official recognition of the area had yielded no result. "The government says the land is privately owned and asks us to approach the contractor, but the contractor says he has no control and is only letting us stay."

Over time, families such as that of Gangaraju settle, and what remains "temporary" in law becomes permanent in practice, said Nandini B.K., associated with the Dhudiyuva Janara Vedike, an activist group that advocates for the rights of marginalised and poor communities. These settlements grow not because people choose informality, but because the city externalises the cost of housing the workforce it depends on.

Why people do not leave?

This makes the persistent question – why don't people leave once the work is over – deeply flawed.

Work is rarely "over" in the way the question assumes. Construction labourers, domestic workers, drivers, sanitation workers, and scrap collectors move from one project to another, often within the same parts of the city. Returning to villages left years ago, frequently without land or livelihood, is not a reset but a regression. Staying close to work is not defiance, but the only rational response to a city that demands labour continuously but refuses to house it, experts say.

> The city depends on labourers for its very growth, yet refuses to recognise them when the land they occupy becomes profitable. Human development is subordinated to market value.
>
> **NANDINI B.K.,** Dhudiyuva Janara Vedike

"Therefore, a comprehensive human development plan is required," says L. Issac Arun Selva, founder of *Slum Jagatthu*, a Kannada language monthly magazine for and by slum dwellers. Such a plan would ask where the workforce will live, how they will access food and public transport, whether children will have schools nearby, and how employment continuity will be ensured. "These questions are largely left unanswered. Migration, long-running infrastructure projects and the absence of affordable rental housing combine to produce informal settlements near work sites," he added.

Slum declaration & selective recognition

Under Karnataka law, Issac explains, the government does have the power to notify an area as a slum even if the land is unauthorised or privately owned. "Slum declaration is recognised as a social measure rather than ownership recognition, allowing the state to extend basic services and rehabilitation. In practice, however, this power is applied selectively. Settlements located on high-value land or earmarked for future projects are often left undeclared, keeping residents outside the formal welfare system," he added.

When major projects begin, workers are mobilised through contractors for work that can last years. With no housing provision attached and rents far beyond their wages, workers settle close to the site. Temporary shelters gradually become stable communities, and families put down roots, he added.

Demolitions without notice

In most such demolition cases, like those seen recently in Fakeer Colony and Waseem Layout, families claimed that notices were never served.

Clifton highlights the legal implications of such selective recognition. Notice, he explains, is not a procedural formality but a constitutional safeguard. It allows residents to explain how long they have lived on the land, under what circumstances they came there, and whether they possess documents that legitimise their occupation. In Karnataka, many residents hold interim orders issued by the Revenue Department under sections of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, which regularise their occupation. Others may have purchased sites in good faith from individuals who claimed ownership of the land. "The purpose of notice is to understand these realities and to allow the state to respond with a humane policy solution, even in cases it calls encroachment," he says.

Fewer slums on paper

Ironically, on paper, Bengaluru appears to have fewer slums today than it did a decade ago. Housing and Minority Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, during the recent winter session, told the Karnataka Legislative Assembly that 435 slums fall under the jurisdiction of the Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB) within the city. Yet, official data published by the KSDB, based on surveys aligned with the 2011 Census, recorded 597 slum areas in Bengaluru. Of these, 387 were formally notified under the Karnataka Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1973. Statewide, the Board had identified 2,804 slum areas, housing an estimated 40.5 lakh people.

This reflects a reduction of 162 slums, or approximately 27.1%, over the period.

Chandramma, State convener of Savitribai Phule Mahila Sangathan, a women's association for community development and awareness, says this decline reflects a shrinking of administrative recognition rather than an actual improvement in housing outcomes. "Bengaluru has not contracted in construction or labour-intensive activity and has only expanded. Metro projects, road widening, flyovers, stormwater projects, tech parks, gated communities and commercial hubs all depend on a floating workforce. The sharp fall in officially recognised slums is a reflection of the State not counting them, not of their disappearance," she explained.

The Kogilu demolition was closely followed by a clearance drive in Thanisandra's Tuba Layout, where the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) razed dozens of homes on land it claimed ownership over. While officials termed the structures "unauthorised", residents maintained that they were not encroachers but tenants who had been paying rent to intermediaries they encountered at labour sites.

This pattern has surfaced repeatedly in Bengaluru – government land is informally occupied or controlled by private actors, rented out to migrant labourers at affordable costs, and when evictions finally take place, it is the workers, not those who profited from the arrangement, who bear the consequences. Labourers employed in construction and allied work are abruptly rendered "illegal occupants" overnight, even as the informal systems that housed them operate unchecked for years.

> Slum declaration is recognised as a social measure rather than ownership recognition, allowing the state to extend basic services and rehabilitation. In practice, however, this power is applied selectively.
>
> **L. ISSAC ARUN SELVA,** founder Slum Jagatthu

In Thanisandra, Syed Ismail, a scrap collector, repainted his house barely two months before demolition, spending his savings for his son's wedding. "Soon after the wedding, the demolition drive happened," he said. With no alternative accommodation, the family asked the bride's parents to house the newlyweds. "The condition is such that even the scrap on the road is getting robbed at night. There is no idea of income and no answers from our owner. Even if I get my deposit back, about ₹30,000, it will only last a short time. After that, we have nothing," he said.

Manjula Akhilesh's story mirrors this pattern across a different slum. After her family was relocated to Rajendra Nagar, she explained that the focus was only on survival. She was married off at a young age to a man 12 years older, reasoning that at least she would have a roof over her head. Her husband later died due to alcoholism, leaving her as the sole earner for three children, none of who attend school.

Declared vs undeclared slums

Clifton emphasises that such outcomes are avoidable if the law is applied with intent. Karnataka slum law mandates formal declaration under Section 3, which triggers legal protections and rehabilitation obligations. Yet, only an estimated 20% to 30% of existing slums are declared. "By not declaring slums, the state avoids legal obligations, labels settlements 'undeclared' or 'informal,' and proceeds with demolitions. That is a clear dereliction of duty," he says.

Even in officially declared slums, residents face daily hardships. Spread across 60 acres, a KSDB colony houses more than 16,000 people, yet basic needs remain unfulfilled. Alamel M., a resident for over a decade, says water access is unreliable. "We have to pay for every drop. For every meal, we walk nearly 800 metres to fetch water and carry it back," she lamented.

Most undeclared slums have access to basic services only because of interventions by NGOs. In settlements such as Vinayaka Layout in T.C. Palya there were no toilet facilities, forcing residents to defecate in the open. Residents said the situation deteriorated to the extent that women were filmed in such instances. An NGO later intervened and constructed a toilet in the area. Similar conditions persist across many slums in the city.

When questioned, Slum Board officials said the government does not have sufficient funds to pay corporations to maintain basic services and hence they cannot declare an area as a slum.

Housing as a human development issue

The broader structural context underscores the point Nandini makes – housing cannot be isolated from human development. It intersects with education, healthcare, transport, livelihood, and food security. Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees life with dignity, encompassing all of these aspects. Yet Bengaluru's urban poor are consistently treated as obstacles to development.

Historically, slums were not created as human settlements but as labour colonies, Nandini argued, explaining that these spaces were intended to temporarily house workers while construction took place. Once the work ended, workers were expected to vanish, leaving space for the next development cycle. This explains why the state repeatedly labels longstanding settlements as encroachments when land values rise. "The city depends on these communities for its very growth, yet refuses to recognise them when the land they occupy becomes profitable. Human development is subordinated to market value," she further said.

Redevelopment promises, stalled action

At the first meeting of the GBA, chaired by the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the government would study Mumbai's cluster-based redevelopment model, citing the Dharavi revamp as a reference. But there is no clarity on timelines, feasibility, or how such a model would translate to Bengaluru's different slum landscape. Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan during the same meeting had added that 480 slum settlements were awaiting redevelopment, acknowledging that earlier attempts had failed and that a committee had been formed to revive the issue. Despite this, concrete action remains absent.

A failure of planning

Issac argued that housing is not just a structure. It is connected to transport, schools, hospitals, and access to work. Even when houses are provided, they are often located in areas with little infrastructure or economic opportunity, making them difficult to inhabit in practice. Some families return to informal settlements closer to work, not because they prefer informality, but because survival demands it.

He argued that all of this points to the absence of a comprehensive human development approach. Cities plan infrastructure in detail, but fail to plan for the people who build it. Without integrating housing with employment, transport, education, and healthcare, relocation remains a temporary fix, and informal settlements continue to reappear – not as a failure of people, but as a failure of planning.

The government does have the power to notify an area as a slum even if the land is unauthorised or privately owned. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

99.31% disposal rate for e-Khata applications: GBA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru has achieved a 99.31% disposal rate of e-Khata applications, with most applications being processed within an average of two days from the date of submission, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) said on Friday.

According to data released by the GBA, more than 9.19 lakh e-Khata applications had been received across the five city corporations as of January 14, of which over 9.13 lakh applications have already been disposed of.

sThe overall pendency stands at 3,193 applications.

Special Commissioner (Revenue), Munish Moudgil, said that in cases where no mutation or correction is required, applicants generally receive approval within three to four days. Applications involving mutation or corrections may take between 10 and 15 days for processing.

Mr. Moudgil requested citizens not to visit City Corporation or GBA offices in person and warned against paying bribes or engaging middlemen. Residents have been advised to apply only through the official online portal and track the status digitally.

The GBA said video tutorials and frequently asked questions are available on the portal to help applicants complete the process without external assistance, he said.

Fact sheet

Corporation Name	E-khata applications received	Cumulative disposal total	Disposal in %
North	2,02,755	2,02,060	99.66
Central	79,765	79,178	99.26
East	1,56,326	1,55,162	99.26
South	2,01,821	2,00,117	99.16
West	2,79,212	2,76,993	99.21
Total	**9,19,879**	**9,13,510**	**99.31**

Colourful start

Artists performing during the inauguration of Bengaluru Hubba 2026 at the Vidhana Soudha on Friday.
ALLEN EGENUSE J.

From CITB to BDA, has the agency delivered on its objectives?

Even though the Bangalore Development Authority has been maligned by corruption charges over the years, it still remains a key entity for the house-owning dreams of many citizens; In this series, the spotlight is on its evolution as it turns 50 years

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Bangalore Development Authority workers engaged in breaching the 100-year-old Nagarabhavi tank in May, 1991, to allow the stagnant water to flow out. The area was converted into house sites.

BDA@50

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), though maligned by corruption charges over the years, remains a key entity for residents' house-owning dreams. The authority, started in 1976, has turned 50.

BDA was preceded by the City Improvement Trust Board (CITB), a colonial institution which had its roots in the plague of the 19th century with a focus to improve sanitation. While cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, and Mysuru got their CITBs in the early 20th century, Bengaluru was a late entrant, with its CITB formed in 1945, after the plague swept the city in the 1890s.

Bengaluru responded to the plague with planned layouts of Basavanagudi and Malleswaram. One of the biggest achievements of CITB was Jayanagar, which was then Asia's largest planned layout.

All not well

However, all was not well. Historian Janaki Nair, author of *The Promise of the Metropolis: Bangalore's Twentieth Century*, said there were a lot of illegal layouts that had mushroomed in the city by the 1970s, which were being regularised through a "reconvey scheme."

"There was still a belief that this process could be corrected, regulated a bit better than what was happening. With that aim, then Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs formed the BDA," she said.

Dissolving the earlier Bangalore City Improvement Trust Board (CITB), Urs formed the BDA in 1976, with a dedicated law. Former bureaucrat Chiranjiv Singh, then Principal Secretary to Urs, recalled that it was felt the city was growing at a fast pace and there was need for a planned and regulated development to channelise the same. So the BDA was formed on the lines of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

While CITB was tasked with the housing function, overlapping with the Housing Board, planning was the domain of the Bangalore City Planning Authority. The BDA brought the development and planning functions under one body for the first time. With planning functions, the BDA was also the regulator of the city's development.

More than layouts

But the BDA is still known more for its layouts. The CITB and the BDA have developed nearly 70 well-planned layouts.

The BDA also introduced the lottery system for allotment of sites, owing to high demand, which had a good consequence of breaking caste-wise segregation that marked earlier layouts and produced the city's first truly mixed layouts after the PSU housing colonies.

A BDA site is still big in the imagination of the city, though recent layouts mired in litigation and delay in providing infrastructure have chipped away at its numero uno status. But many have argued that the BDA has degenerated into "a real estate developer", building layouts where lands were available and sites were profitable. Not only is the BDA accused of catering only to the middle and upper middle classes through its layouts, but also of failing to develop layouts in congruence with the economic geographies of the city.

What about planning?

But has the BDA achieved its objective of checking unplanned development and mushrooming of illegal layouts and development?

"Time has shown that the BDA in fact not only failed to check illegal and unplanned development, but has in many ways enhanced it," Ms. Nair observed. "Perhaps, the real estate market was well developed in Bengaluru by the time Urs formed the BDA. It was shutting the stable doors after the horses had bolted," she said.

Film and television director T.N. Seetharam recalls how farmers' leader M.D. Nanjundaswamy pulled them into a three-day protest in Cubbon Park against the formation of the BDA in 1976.

In a Facebook post, he recalled that on the day the Urs government announced the formation of BDA, Prof. MDN asked him what time he took to reach Gandhi Bazaar from Malleswaram, and when he answered 15 minutes, he shot back that everyone would buy a car and it would take half an hour in the next five years. He said sites will cost over 30 lakh in five years. "We sat on a protest for two days at Cubbon Park asking for a Bangalore Maintenance Authority instead, arguing the city had already grown enough, but nobody cared. Today, it takes nearly 1.5 hours to travel from Malleswaram to Gandhi Bazaar," he noted.

Manjunath flags need for 650-bed hospital on proposed RGUHS medical college campus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

MP for Bengaluru Rural C.N. Manjunath has written to Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil and RGUHS Vice-Chancellor B.C. Bhagwan urging the government to take up the construction of a 650-bed hospital on the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences' proposed medical college campus at Archakarahalli in Ramanagara town.

In separate letters, Dr. Manjunath said that while the administrative block and the medical college buildings are currently under construction at an estimated cost of ₹600 crore with university funds, the project does not include a teaching hospital – a mandatory component for medical colleges under National Medical Commission (NMC) norms. Ramanagara, he pointed out, being the district headquarters, requires a tertiary-care hospital attached to the college for both academic and public health reasons. Such a facility would help meet clinical training requirements and strengthen secondary and tertiary healthcare services for the district and surrounding rural areas.

The existing district hospital has 250 beds and is located nearly 3 km from the new campus, posing challenges in integrating academic training, emergency care, and utilisation of manpower and facilities. "Otherwise, patients as well as faculty will be compelled to shuttle between the district hospital and the medical college campus, resulting in significant inconvenience and inefficiency," he said.

Woman held for burglaries

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sampigehalli police have arrested a 45-year-old habitual offender, who along with a minor girl, was allegedly involved in a series of house burglaries across Bengaluru.

The accused has been identified as Reshma K. Babu, 45, a resident of Modi Garden. She was tracked following a house burglary reported on January 13, in Sampigehalli police limits.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed to her role in the burglary. The police revealed that the accused would disguise herself and the minor as men to evade detection and CCTV camera surveillance.

Investigation further revealed that Reshma was the caretaker of the juvenile, whom she allegedly trained and used for committing thefts and burglaries across the city.

Both the accused woman and the minor have been produced before the court. Further investigation is under way.

Tejaswi-themed flower show draws large crowds

Aaron Nair
S.P. Vishnu Saketh Bhattar
BENGALURU

The floral installations at the 219th Lalbagh Flower Show.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Celebrated Kannada writer and thinker K.P. Poornachandra Tejaswi's deep connection with literature, nature, and the Malnad landscape has taken centre stage at Lalbagh's Republic Day Flower Show, themed 'Tejaswi Vismaya'.

The floral exhibition, which will run till January 26, brings to life the environment he cherished and the many facets of his life.

Inside the Glass House and its surroundings, the displays trace different phases of Tejaswi's life, including his childhood, education, and personal influences. Excerpts from a letter he wrote to his father, Kuvempu, a towering Kannada literary figure, are showcased. There is also information on his mentors and ideological influences, including his contemporaries, Shivaram Karanth and Ram Manohar Lohia, and his parents. His writings on environmental degradation and conservation form the central theme of the exhibition, with several of his books displayed.

Outside the Glass House, a heart-shaped horticultural installation and honeybee sculptures near Tejaswi's statue symbolise his ecological concerns. A large red rose elephant installation accompanied by a tortoise has been placed opposite the Glass House near the hill area, which represents his house in the Malnad region.

The exhibition also includes a special display of Karnataka's GI-tagged crops, rare and exotic fruit plants, and an insect exhibit featuring butterflies, honeybees, and beetles, organised under the K.P. Poornachandra Tejaswi Foundation.

This year's theme drew a large number of visitors, many of whom told *The Hindu* that the exhibition brought back memories of books they had cherished. Rashmi M. said the arrangements had been designed in a way that clearly conveyed Poornachandra Tejaswi's legacy.

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
(A Statutory Body under Ministry of Power, Government of India)

Expression of Interest (EoI) for Development of 4300 MW Pumped Storage Projects

BBMB invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from interested developers for development of Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) of 2800 MW at Pong Reservoir, Distt. Kangra & 1500 MW at Bhakra Reservoir, Distt. Una, in state of Himachal Pradesh, under Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) mode.
The interested and eligible developers are to submit their EoI by 27.01.2026 and shall attend a stakeholder meeting at BBMB Board Secretariat, Chandigarh, on 30th January 2026, at 3:00 PM. This EoI is non-binding and for preliminary market assessment only.
For detailed EoI, please visit **www.bbmb.gov.in**

217-PR-Board Sector-4 FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division,
Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560092.

No: BNCC/EE/SD/TEND/09/2025-26 Date: 16-01-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC, Bengaluru invites Tender from eligible registered Agencies in any State Government Organization for the Service detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
1	Providing Staff for Revenue and IT Work for Zone-1 and Zone-2 of Bengaluru North City Corporation. **(Call-2) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 272.46, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 4.10**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Last Date and Time for Queries (through Online only): **22-01-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Date & Time of Pre Bid Meeting: **22-01-2026 at 3.00 PM. 4)** Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **27-01-2026 upto 4.00 PM. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid on **28-01-2026 at 11.00 AM (if possible or next working day). 6)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **31-01-2026 at 4.00 PM (if Possible).** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC.

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Zone-2, Dasarahalli Division,
MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bagalagunte, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru - 560073.

No: BNCC/EE/DD/TEND/02/2025-26 Date: 16-01-2026

CORRIGENDUM - 01

Sub: Regarding the Corrigendum in the Tender Notification.
Ref.: 1) This Office KPP Portal Tender Notification No: BNCC/EE/DD/TEND/02/2025-26, Dated: 24-12-2025.

In connection with the above Subject and Reference, Tender has been called as per Reference, Due to Technical reasons, the date has been Corrigendum in the Tender Notification, the Last Date for Submission of Tenders and the Dates for Opening of Technical and Financial Bids have been Postponed, the details are as follows:

Sl.No. in Notification	Particulars	As per Notification	To be Read as
1	Name of the Work	Construction of Annex Building Adjacent to Dasarahalli Zonal Office Building at MEI Layout, Bagalgunte.	**Construction of Annex Building Adjacent to Dasarahalli Zonal Office Building at MEI Layout, Bagalgunte. (Call-2)**
2	EMD Amount	24200	**28500**
	Amount Put to Tender	24.20 Lakhs	**28.41 Lakhs**
3	EMD Amount	24200	**28500**
	Amount Put to Tender	24.20 Lakhs	**28.41 Lakhs**
17	EMD Amount	84750	**169500**
	Catagory	SC	**OTHERS**
19	EMD Amount	169480	**84780**
	Catagory	OTHERS	**CAT-II**
20	EMD Amount	169400	**84750**
	Catagory	OTHERS	**ST**
Tender must be Submitted Online through KPP Portal on		15-01-2026 before 16.00 Hours	**22-01-2026 before 16.00 Hours**
Date of Opening of Technical Bids		16-01-2026 at 16.30 Hours	**23-01-2026 at 16.30 Hours**
Last Date for Submission of Tender Queries			**19-01-2026 before 16.00 Hours**
Date of Pre Bid Meeting on		**20-01-2026 at 15.00 Hours at the Office of the Chief Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone, MEI Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bagalgunte, T. Dasarahalli, Bengaluru - 560073.**	

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, Zone-2, BNCC.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. BSWML/DGM-3/ Tend/20/Corr/1/25-26 Date:16-01-2026

CORRIGENDUM- 01

Sub: Extension of Calendar of Events for the tender. **Ref:** This office Tender Notification No.DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/20/2025-26 Date: 13.01.2026
As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above notification is extended due to Administrative and Technical reasons.

Sl. No.	Description	As per tender notification	Extended dates to be read as
1	Date of Pre bid meeting	**17.01.2026 at 15:00 hours**	**21.01.2026 at 15:00 hours**
2	Last date of Submission of bids in KPP Portal	**22.01.2026 before 16:00 hrs.**	**27.01.2026 before 16:00 hrs.**
3	The Technical Bid Opening date in KPP Portal	**23.01.2026 after 16:30 hrs.**	**28.01.2026 after 16:30 hrs.**

For Further details visit GOK KPP portal Website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML

DIPR/CP/5070/Zen/2025-26

State Budget: Tackling fiscal pressure a challenging task

Union Budget on February 1 is expected to offer some clarity on Central transfers and grants to the State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As Karnataka gears up for its 2026-27 Budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah faces the challenging task of addressing the State's widening fiscal pressures.

The State is grappling with a projected revenue deficit of ₹19,262 crore in the current 2025-26 fiscal year, a figure that could rise further due to recent GST rate rationalisation and other factors.

The fiscal deficit for 2025-26 stands estimated at ₹90,428 crore, equivalent to 2.95% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), staying just within the 3% limit prescribed under the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act. To bridge the gap between revenue inflows and outflows, the government must explore measures to curb spending in non-essential areas while boosting revenue through enhanced tax collection, new cesses, or other levies.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah holding the Budget document ahead of the Budget presentation for the financial year 2025-26. The Chief Minister faces the challenging task of addressing the State's widening fiscal pressures this time.

The upcoming Union Budget on February 1, 2026, is expected to offer some clarity on central transfers and grants to the State, which could influence Karnataka's fiscal planning.

In the 2025-26 Budget, revenue expenditure was pegged at around ₹3.11 lakh crore, against revenue receipts of approximately ₹2.92 lakh crore, within an overall Budget outlay of ₹4.09 lakh crore. However, ongoing challenges, including GST rate restructuring, have led to an anticipated additional revenue shortfall of about ₹9,000 crore this year, compounded by roughly ₹9,500 crore lost from the non-sharing of certain cesses by the Centre.

More borrowing

Credit rating agency ICRA has highlighted the State's aggressive borrowing strategy, noting that Karnataka plans to raise a record ₹93,000 crore from the open market in the final quarter of 2025-26 – the highest quarterly borrowing ever by the State.

This amount is nearly double what the State raised in the same quarter of the previous two fiscal years and exceeds the full-year borrowings in those periods. So far, only ₹12,000 crore has been borrowed through December.

Overall borrowings for 2025-26 are budgeted at ₹1,16,000 crore, representing about 28% of the total budget size.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok has criticised the Congress-led government, dubbing Siddaramaiah the "Biggest Borrowing CM" amid concerns over rising debt levels.

'Deliberate move'

According to the Chief Minister's economic adviser and Congress MLA Basavaraj Rayareddy, the decision to front-load borrowings toward the end of the fiscal year is a deliberate move to minimise the interest burden on the State exchequer.

With welfare commitments, guarantee schemes, and other expenditures continuing to exert pressure, the Budget preparations would require careful balancing to maintain fiscal discipline while sustaining growth and development priorities.

BJP's Ballari to Bengaluru padayatra stalled, pending nod from central leadership

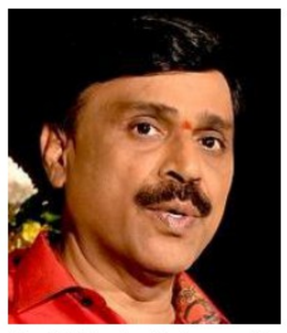
The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI/BELAGAVI

The Bharatiya Janata Party's much-publicised proposed padayatra from Ballari to Bengaluru, to be launched on January 17, has been put on hold after the party central leadership reportedly declined permission for the march while allowing a public meeting in Ballari.

The padayatra was announced in the aftermath of the January 1 violent clash in Ballari between supporters of Gangavathi MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy and Ballari MLA Nara Bharath Reddy, which led to the death of a Congress worker and injuries to several others.

Mr. Janardhan Reddy and former Minister B. Sriramulu had then declared that a padayatra would be undertaken from Ballari to Bengaluru to protest against what they described as the 'goondaism of the Congress'. The proposed route and halt points had been circulated through party WhatsApp groups.

However, well-placed party sources said the high command had given the go-ahead for a public meeting in Ballari on January 17 but not for the *padayatra*. The development is being seen as a setback to Gangavathi MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy and his associates, particularly former Minister B. Sriramulu, who had hoped to mobilise the party's cadre and rebuild their political base through the proposed march.


The BJP leadership is wary of allowing Gali Janardhan Reddy to project himself as a frontline leader through a padayatra.

'Not cancelled'

"Padayatra is not cancelled, it has only been put on hold as the party leadership is yet to give its approval. The public meeting will, however, be held as scheduled," a BJP leader from Ballari told *The Hindu*.

Ballari district BJP president Anilkumar Naidu sought to downplay the issue, saying the agitation would be carried out in phases. "The protest is being organised in the first phase. The padayatra will be taken up in the coming days. Everything will happen phase-wise," he said.

Meeting on January 17

Meanwhile, N. Ravikumar a BJP leader and MLC, on Friday, told the reporters in Ballari that the decision on the padayatra would be taken at the party's Core Committee meeting scheduled for January 17.

State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra attributed the delay to organisational issues at the national level. "The delay is caused by the ongoing process of appointing the BJP national president. Personally, I am not opposed to any padayatra by party leaders in Karnataka. But we want to avoid confusion, as happened during an earlier padayatra to Mysuru. All such programmes must be brought to the notice of the central leadership," he told reporters in Belagavi on Friday, adding that he would discuss the matter with central leaders during his visit to New Delhi on January 19-20.

Local factors

Political observers, however, believe the leadership's reluctance stems from concerns over the optics and political implications of the padayatra. They point out that the Ballari violence was less a clash between the Congress and the BJP, and more a confrontation between local rival leaders Nara Bharath Reddy and Janardhan Reddy, who have been at odds for several years.

According to them, the BJP leadership is wary of allowing Mr. Janardhan Reddy, who continues to face legal scrutiny in illegal mining cases, to project himself as a frontline leader through a high-profile padayatra.

Apparently, the party is also keen to avoid being projected as antagonistic to the Valmiki community.

Nothing wrong in HDK coming to State politics: Vijayendra

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

There is nothing wrong in Union Minister and Janata Dal (Secular) State unit president H.D. Kumaraswamy saying that he will come back to State politics, B.Y. Vijayendra, Bharatiya Janata Party Karnataka unit president, said in Belagavi on Friday.

"As a former Chief Minister, he has uniquely contributed to the development of Karnataka," he said, responding to queries from reporters in Belagavi airport at Sambra.

On Sankranthi day on Thursday, Mr. Kumaraswamy had said, "If anyone thinks that I am moving away from State politics, it is wrong. I will remain active in State politics. At the Centre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given me two major portfolios. I will decide when to return to State politics based on their wishes."

Mr. Vijayendra alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is practising the 'politics of hatred' by 'needlessly opposing' the VB-G RAM G Act.

"The Congress in the State is trying to misuse the House to criticise the Centre over the rural job scheme," Mr. Vijayendra argued.

Discussions on leadership is between me, CM, and party: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who was in Delhi on Friday, firmly stated that discussions regarding the Chief Minister's post remain a private matter involving himself, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and the Congress high command – and is not an appropriate issue for public disclosure.

Responding to questions about whether he had raised the issue during any interaction with Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Mr. Shivakumar emphasised that such "sensitive topics" are confined to internal party channels and should not be debated openly.

'Internal plans'

When pressed about the agenda for his ongoing discussions with the party's central leadership – particularly in relation to the upcoming Assam Assembly elections – Mr. Shivakumar declined to elaborate, saying,

"How can I reveal the party's internal plans? These matters will be handled at the party level, not in public. If anything needs to be shared with the media or the people, it will come from the party's general secretary."

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, along with Rahul Gandhi, Deputy Cheif Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and other senior Congress leaders, at a meeting in Delhi.

The remarks come amid persistent speculation within political circles about leadership dynamics in the Karnataka Congress, following recent interactions and appointments, including Mr. Shivakumar's role as a senior observer for the Assam polls. He has chosen to maintain caution, underscoring that organisational and strategic decisions are best kept within party forums.

On his purpose for being in Delhi, Mr. Shivakumar confirmed he had travelled with the intent of meeting senior Congress leaders, adding cautiously, "I have come to Delhi to meet party leaders, let's see how it unfolds."

Addressing speculation about potential meetings with Union Ministers, he clarified that his schedule included consultations with legal counsels and certain Union Ministers to discuss key legal and procedural aspects related to important irrigation projects in Karnataka.

UGCET-26 online application process begins

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on Friday commenced the online application process for admission to professional courses for the 2026 academic year.

Last date to submit applications is February 16

Candidates can submit applications until February 16, while the last date for fee payment is February 18, KEA Executive Director, H. Prasanna announced on Friday.

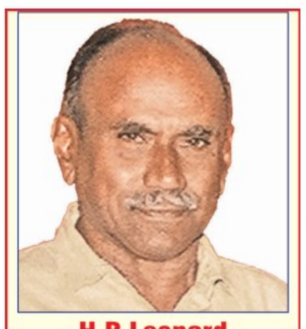
Admissions to engineering, veterinary, agriculture and other professional programmes will be through the Common Entrance Test (CET) and counselling, whereas medical seats will be allotted solely on NEET score.

This year's Aadhaar-based system auto-fills applicant details and provides email and WhatsApp updates. Applicants verified through SATS and RD numbers can directly print forms. The CET is scheduled for April 23 and 24.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Sri. R VASANTHA KUMAR (50)
Senior Supervisor, Utilities & Services, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 14-01-2026.
Address
B Block, 1C, Vijay Tirupuraneni Habitat, Park Avenue 3rd Street, Velachery, Chennai - 600042.
Ph: 99403 20077



H P Leonard
14-March-1940 to 16-January-2026
We are deeply saddened to share that he has returned to our Lord.
Funeral service will be held at 3 pm today at the Presentation Church, 23, Jani Jan Khan Road, Royapettah, Chennai 600014.
Burial at Quibble Island cemetery, Foreshore Estate, Santhome.
98410 27156 / 78457 27156 / 97908 44625 / +91 73050 91546

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, **Hubballi:** 0836 - 2338600 **Mangaluru:** 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
E-mail ID: acephcbam@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Invitaion for Bids (IFB)

Sl. No.	Name of work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding		Name & address of Officer Inviting Bid
					From	To	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Laying of Balance RWRM from new intake well site at Hiradharabati with provision of Distribution pipes in accordance with SWAP - III projects for Kodala water supply Scheme under state plan-2025-26 (SUJAL)	Identification No. ACEPHCBAM 13/2025-26 Dt. 12.01.2026	659.66	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months	11.00 Hrs. of 19.01.2026	17.30 Hrs. of 03.02.2026	Additional Chief Engineer, P.H. Circle, Berhampur

The technical bid shall be opened on dt. 06.02.2026 at 12.30 P.M.
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal http://tendersodisha.gov.in
C-2085
Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer (PH)

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

Tender Notice
Sealed tenders are invited from the manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/sole agents on the prescribed form for below mention items for two years.

Sr. no.	Name of Drug/Material	Due Date	Opening Date
1.	Inj. Dexamethasone Intravitreal Implant 0.7mg	17.02.2026 upto 12:30 PM	17.02.2026 at 03:00 PM
2.	Sevoflurane Inhalation IP/USP 250ml bottle	18.02.2026 upto 12:30PM	18.02.2026 upto 03:00 PM
The prebid meeting for above said drugs is scheduled to be held on dated 28.01.2026 at 03:00PM in the committee Room attached to office of Medical Superintendent, Nehru Hospital, PGIMER Chandigarh.			

The tender will be opened at Committee Room attached to the office of Medical Superintendent, Nehru Hospital, PGIMER Chandigarh. Details of Tender Notice & Tender Form are available at our website pgimer.edu.in & eprocure.gov.in
PGI/RC/Advt.2026/HR-0036
Officer In-charge(HPD)
Proc. Drugs & Dressing

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, 1st Main Road, Kalidasa Marga, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND/E-Service3/501/2025-26 Date: 14.01.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS FOR PROVIDING SERVICES
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for providing Services for Drone Survey of KIADB industrial areas.
Name of the work: Providing services for Drone Survey with Topographical Mapping and Cadastral Overlay for KIADB land in Vijayapur District in Tidagundi Village. (Total Extent: 1212.00 Acres)
Last Date for submission of Bids: **31.02.2026** upto **4:00** pm.
Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/CP/5037/2025-26
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2, KIADB, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public, private institutions, partnership firms, banks are hereby notified that my client is interested in purchasing the schedule property from Smt. Latha w/o P. Manjunath, Puttaswmayya and his daughter's namely P. Sahana, P. Sindhu, P. Shalini, P. Sanjana aliyas Janavi. As such persons who are having right/interest/ possession over the Schedule Property shall furnish their objections along with documents to the below named advocate with in 10 days from the date of this publication. In the absence of any kind of objections from anybody, the sale transaction will be completed.
SCHEDULE:
All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing survey No 72, measuring 5 acres 37 guntas situated that Raugondlu, Uttarhalli hobali Bangalore south taluk, bounded on
East by: Land of Ramakrishnappa. **West by:** Land of Dasappanavara Huchppa. **North by:** Land belongs to road, **South by:** Land belong to road.
Advocate
Manjunatha H.L.
No.96, 1st Main, 4th Cross Kalidasa Layout, Srinagara Bangalore-560 050.
Mobile : 9342810851
Dated: 16.01.2026
Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client intend to purchase Property bearing municipal katha No. 652/26/4, 9/633/586 Old No. 26, E-Katha No. 8670884378, situated at 4th Cross Road, Anuradha Industrial Estate, Yelachenahalli, Bangalore, in BBMP Limits, Ward No. 185, carved out of Sy No. 4 and 9, Yelachenahalli, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 45 Feet and North to South 30 Feet totally measuring 1350 Square feet, along with a building measuring 800 Square feet, more fully described in the schedule herein below from **"Mr. T.G.Janardhan** S/o Mr. Govinda Reddy T.N and Mr. Pramod T G S/o Mr. Govinda Reddy T.N, both residing at No. 18, 5th Cross, Yelachenahalli, Bengaluru – 560 078 who claims to be the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and apart from trust, no other person/s has/have any right, title, interest and/or claim/s in or upon the Schedule Property. If any person/s has/have any claims, right, title and/or interest in or upon the same, the same may be intimated to me within **15 days** from the date of this publication along with documents in support thereof. If no tenable objections are received within the said period, my clients will proceed to complete the transaction, deeming that there are no claims or objections whatsoever.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Property bearing municipal katha No. 652/26/4, 9/633/586 Old No. 26, E-Katha No. 8670884378, situated at 4th Cross Road, Anuradha Industrial Estate, Yelachenahalli, Bangalore, in BBMP Limits, Ward No. 185, carved out of Sy No. 4 and 9, Yelachenahalli, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 45 Feet and North to South 30 Feet totally measuring 1350 Square feet, along with a building measuring 800 Square feetand bounded on:
East by : Road
West by : Site No.17
North by : Site No.25
South by : Site No.27
S.K. MITHUN Advocate,
No.19/1, 3rd Cross, Shankarpura, BANGALORE- 560 004
Ph-9845366658

MSP guarantee law: Farmers' awareness yatra from February 7

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Demanding implementation of a legal guarantee for MSP, for agricultural produce, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (non-political) will take out a farmers' awareness yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, morcha national co-convener Kurubur Shanthkumar said the 40-day yatra will begin from Kanyakumari on February 7, and culminate in Kashmir.

He said farmers had staged year-long agitations at the Delhi border to caution the Union government, but no serious action was taken.

"A 31-member Parliamentary Standing Committee also submitted a report on MSP guarantee law. The Union government has not initiated any concrete action on bringing the law," he argued.

Bheemanna Khandre passes away

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Bheemanna Khandre.
FILE PHOTO

Congress leader, freedom fighter, co-operative sector pioneer and former Transport Minister Bheemanna Khandre passed away at his residence in Bhalki, Bidar district, on Friday night. He was 103.

He breathed his last around 10.50 p.m. after battling age-related ailments and respiratory complications over the past few days. He will be laid to rest on Saturday.

He is survived by two sons – Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre and Bidar DCC Bank president Amar Kumar Khandre – and four daughters.

His younger son, former legislator Vijaykumar Khandre, passed away in 2019.

Mr. Khandre, a towering figure in the public life of Kalyana Karnataka and a senior leader of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community, had been admitted to a private hospital in Bidar earlier and was later shifted home, where treatment continued. Confirming the death, Mr. Eshwar Khandre said the veteran leader passed away peacefully at home.

Lawyer by profession

A lawyer by profession, Mr. Khandre entered public life in 1953 as the first elected president of the Bhalki Municipality.

He was elected to the Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1962 and went on to serve four terms as an MLA and two terms as a member of the Legislative Council. He also served as Transport Minister in the M. Veerappa Moily Ministry.

As a freedom fighter, he actively participated in the Hyderabad Liberation Movement, opposed the excesses of the Razakars and played a key role in ensuring that Bidar district remained part of Karnataka during linguistic reorganisation exercise and Karnataka Unification Movement, for which he was honoured with the Karnataka Ekikarana Award.

Co-op. movement

Mr. Khandre made a lasting contribution to the co-operative and education sectors.

He was the founder-president of the Bidar Co-operative Sugar Factory at Hallikhed and the Mahatma Gandhi Sugar Factory at Hunaji, and played an important role in the implementation of the Naranja and Karanja irrigation projects.

Speaker nixes pleas seeking to disqualify Telangana MLAs

Out of 10 MLAs, the Speaker has dismissed pleas against seven legislators so far; BRS initiated the action against its party members who were accused of switching allegiance to the ruling Congress

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Following the latest orders, petitions against three other legislators remain pending before the Telangana Assembly Speaker. FILE PHOTO

Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar dismissed the disqualification petitions filed by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) against two of its legislators, Chevella MLA Kale Yadaiah and Banswada MLA Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, who were accused of having switched allegiance to the ruling Congress.

"I have issued orders dismissing the disqualification petitions," the Speaker said, according to official sources.

Following the latest orders, petitions against three other MLAs, Kadiyam Srihari, Danam Nagendar and M. Sanjay Kumar remain pending before the Speaker.

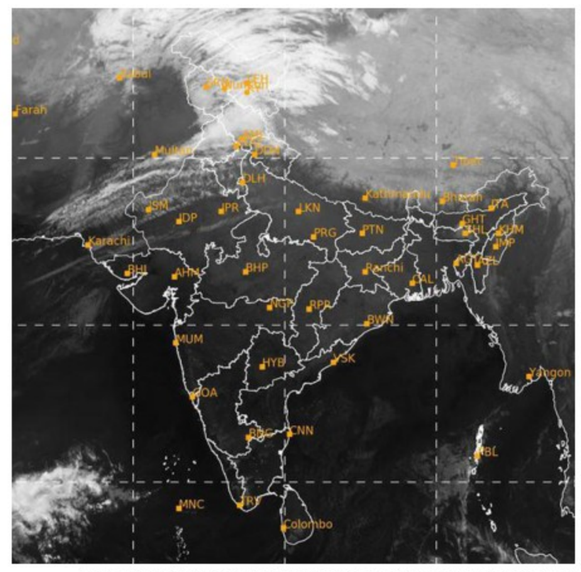
The Speaker has so far rejected disqualification pleas against seven of the 10 BRS legislators – facing allegations of defections under the anti-defection law. Earlier, the Speaker had issued notices to 10 MLAs named in the petitions, alleging that they defected to the Congress after the 2023 Assembly election.

The BRS approached the Supreme Court alleging that the Speaker was not initiating any action. The top court, on November 17, 2025, issued a contempt notice to the Speaker for not complying with its directive to decide expeditiously on the issue.

The BRS working president, K. T. Rama Rao, accused the Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of backing defectors "without shame" and of making a mockery of the Constitution at every step.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh and east Madhya Pradesh. Cold day conditions likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Dense fog likely at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.2	13.8	Kozhikode	—	33.0	25.1
Ahmedabad	—	30.6	14.5	Kurnool	—	33.0	20.7
Aizawl	—	23.9	11.0	Lucknow	—	19.6	5.8
Allahabad	—	22.5	7.8	Madurai	—	31.5	20.5
Bengaluru	—	27.8	17.3	Mangaluru	—	31.9	23.6
Bhopal	—	26.8	6.0	Mumbai	—	31.2	16.9
Bhubaneswar	—	28.4	10.5	Mysuru	—	30.0	16.8
Chandigarh	—	19.5	5.3	New Delhi	—	22.5	4.3
Chennai	—	30.5	22.5	Patna	—	22.0	10.3
Coimbatore	—	31.0	20.0	Port Blair	—	30.1	24.0
Dehradun	—	22.1	5.6	Puducherry	—	29.8	21.5
Gangtok	—	17.5	5.7	Pune	—	32.6	17.3
Goa	—	32.9	22.3	Raipur	—	28.9	12.0
Guwahati	—	26.8	13.4	Ranchi	—	23.0	8.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	16.0	Shillong	—	18.4	6.4
Hyderabad	—	30.8	17.7	Shimla	—	20.0	10.5
Imphal	—	24.5	13.1	Srinagar	—	9.0	-1.5
Jaipur	—	25.4	9.5	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.1	22.9
Kochi	—	30.4	23.2	Tiruchi	—	29.6	21.6
Kohima	—	15.6	5.6	Vijayawada	—	30.5	21.0
Kolkata	—	24.6	13.2	Visakhapatnam	—	28.1	20.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.93	105	.48	...130	...160	
Bengaluru	...5	..16	.39	...153	...159	
Chennai	...6	...8	.53	...132	...128	
Delhi	.20	..72	119	...400	...378	
Hyderabad	...7	..35	.36	...123	96	
Kolkata	...8	121	.60	...226	...145	
Lucknow	...6	..47	.70	...214	...228	
Mumbai	.12	..64	.29	...154	...133	
Pune	..—	..84	.46	...208	...162	
Visakhapatnam	.17	..33	.29	...168	...133	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 376 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Bagalkot, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 46

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Telangana denying official relief in phone tapping case, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday voiced an intention to make "absolute" an interim bail given to former IPS officer T. Prabhakar Rao, prime accused in the Telangana phone tapping case, while asking the State if its plan is to keep him in jail till he breaks down.

"He was in police custody for two weeks after his surrender. We will make the interim relief granted to him absolute," Justice B.V. Nagarathna addressed senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for the State. When Mr. Luthra objectedly, the judge said the Bench was nursing a "feeling that you want him to be in jail till he breaks down".

CPI(M) meet pledges to resist 'anti-people' policies of the Centre

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Friday pledged to mobilise people in resistance against the BJP-led Union government's "anti-agricultural worker, anti-farmer, anti-worker, anti-people" laws and policies till they are all repealed, the party said on Friday.

In a statement issued here on Friday, the CPI(M) said members and leaders took the pledge following a three-day meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

"We pledge to work for the unity of the people and ensure that pro-people laws and policies are made, which ensure basic rights and decent lives for the people. We take the pledge to build consistent united pan-India struggles till victory," it said.

RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY, JAIPUR
GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN

No.F.7(403)/SHA/PPP/ADB/2018-19 Date: 07.01.2026

SHORT TERM NIT No: 50/2025-26

INVITATION OF BIDS FOR TOLL COLLECTION

Bids for Collection of User Fee by the fee collecting agency selected on the basis of competitive bidding at Toll Plazas for Project highway "Barmer - Sindhari - Bishangarh section of SH-16 (section-1) KM 0/0 at Barmer and, Sanderao- Bali- Mundara section of SH-16 (section-2) KM 0/0 at Sanderao in the State of Rajasthan" under RSHIP Tranche-1, Package-02 are invited from interested bidders upto 12:00 PM on 20.01.2026.
Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan. gov.in, htpp://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state: and department website.
The estimated value of Annual Remittance is Rs 15,50,83,218/-,

UBNNo: PWD 2526SLOB20362

Email: ho.rsha@rajasthan.gov.in (A.K.Jain)
Tel:+91-141-2223547 Member (C&PPP)
RajKaj Ref. No.: 1977666 RSHA, Jaipur
DIPR/C/711

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bengaluru-560 009

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
West-2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/ PB/4638/ 2025-26 Date:16.01.2026 (Reserve for CAT-II(A)	Rs. 78,56,954/- / Rs. 78,600/-	23.01.2026 Upto 3.00 P.M.	27.01.2026 after 3.00 P.M.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-2)

The details regarding the tender & participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/DD-C.P/5059/KSMCA/2025-26

DEPARTMENT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS

Podium Block, V.V.Tower, Ground Floor, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560 001. Telephone No. 080-22866066, 080-22866046
Email Address: **dirdwdscka@gmail.com, dir-dwds-ka@nic.in**

No: DEDASC/2025-26/IND0120 Dated: 16.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)

Tender is invited for supply of Two Wheeler with Retrofitment of additional two wheels by the Director, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, under e-Procurement platform/e-portal in two parts (i.e., Technical bid and Financial bid) system from the original vehicle equipment manufacturers or their authorized dealers for the use of severely affected orthopedically handicapped persons for the year 2025-26 (Approximate bid amount is **Rs.433.00 Lakhs)** The interested bidders may see further details and may login in website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The tender shall be submitted on or before **12.02.2026 till 05.00pm**. Pre-bid meeting is on **03.02.2026 at 3.30pm,** the technical bid will be opened on **13.02.2026 at 05.30 pm** and the financial bid will be opened on **16.02.2026 at 04.30pm**. Department reserves all rights to accept, reject, incorporate changes and retender without giving any reasons. The details can be obtained from the Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Podium Block, V.V. Tower, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, Phone No:080-22860907.
For more info please visit department website **www.dwdsc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director,
Department for the Empowerment of
Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5061/Zen/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(APCC&PROC)/EE-4/AEE5/2025-26/5477-490 Date: 16.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following work against following Enquiry Number:

Enquiry number/ Name of the Work
KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3150
Tender for the following Combined package works. **Work-A)** Providing additional 1X100MVA, 220/110kV power Transformer at 220/110kV **Mughalkhod** sub-station in Raibagh Taluk, Belagavi District. **Work-B)** Providing additional 1X100MVA, 220/110kV power Transformer at 220/110kV **M.K.Hubli** sub-station in Kittur Taluk, Belagavi District. on **Partial Turnkey basis** including Supply of all Materials/equipments, Erection (including dismantling and Civil Works) of all materials/equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **19.01.2026.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **18.02.2026 at 15:00hrs. Any extension of due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours. All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- **Chief General Manager(Tech)., KPTCL, Corporate Office, 2nd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560 009.**

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಹುಕ್ಕೇರಿ–591309. ಜಿ:ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: (08333)265138 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ(08333)265138
e-mail:ka.hukkeri.tmc@gmail.com **Website: www.hukkeritown.mrc.gov.in**
ನಂ:ಪುಹು:15th FGB/SFCTSP/Gen/SBM2.0/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:16/01/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Portal)

The Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Hukkeri, District Belgavi invites tender using Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Order Rules 1999 & 2000, Standard Bid Document Rules Standard Bid document From eligible contractors and human resource non-governmental organizations registered on the e-procurement portal under the Karnataka Public Works Department. through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in under 15th Finance GenBasic/ SFC TSP/SBM2.0/GenFund/ Yearly Tender The works will be carried out for a minimum of Rs. 1.80 lakhs and a maximum of Rs.96.38 lakhs. Apply online on the date mentioned below. For more information, contact the Junior Engineer, Municipality, Hukkeri during office hours

Contractors can download and submit the tenders through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:
1:Enquiry:30-01-2026 upto 4.30 P.M, 2:Last Date for submission of tenders: 31-01-2026 upto 4.30 PM. 3:Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids):02-02-2026 after 10.30 AM. 4:Date of Opening of Tender (financial Bid): 03-02-2026 after 10.30 AM.

Post-ponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/-Ishwar C Sidnal
KMAS Grade-1
Chief Officer
TMC Hukkeri

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1647/KSMCA/2025-26

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru – 560064

ONLINE 'VENDORS MEET' JANUARY-2026

Rail Wheel Factory will be conducting online Vendors' Meet on **21/01/2026 at 15:30 Hrs to 17:30 Hrs.**
The primary focus of the event is to identify potential sources for development of vendors for imported consumable items of RWF (which are available on RWF website) and development of additional sources for items for which limited sources/one source is available etc, and promote Vendors to aim at adopting sustainable manufacturing methods in Green Supply Chain Policy.
The meeting link is given below Weblink:
https://railnet10.webex.com/railnet10/j.php?MTID=m2fc41465c3dd4a170bc2dde82f9b1b8c
Meeting No: 25106497037
Meeting password: 123456
The weblink will be activated at 15:15 Hrs on 21/01/2026.

PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

For details, mail to: E-mail IDs: dycmm.1@rwf.railnet.gov.in, smm.qmc@gmail.com

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office fo the Executive Engineer, Harangai Rehabilitation Division, Kushalnagara - 571234, Somwarapet Taluk, Kodagu District
Tel. : 08275-274365, Fax : 08276-274365, Email : eehrdksh@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION NO - 17/2025-26 Dated : 14-01-2026
(Through KPP Portal Only) Short Term (CALL 2)

Item Rate tenders are invited on e-procurement basis by the Executive Engineer, Harangi Rehabilitation Division, Kushainagara, Somwarapet Taluk, Kodagu District on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from eligible contractors for the following work. **Construction of bow-string arch bridge at the downstream of Harangi reservoir near Hulugunda village, Kushalnagar taluk, Kodagu district,** CNNL/2025-26/BB/WORK_INDENT4171/CALL02 Approx. amount put to tender Rs. 3023.00 lakhs, The contractors can have access/download e-procurement tender document from **14-01-2026** onwards and fast date to submitt the filled tender document is **21-01-2026** till 4.30 PM. Technical bid will be opened on Dt: **22-01-2026** at 5:00 PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened on after Approval of the Technical Bid. All the information is available on e - procurement portal web-site address **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Tender processing fee as stipulated in the e-procurement portal is applicable for the work and stipulated period for completion of the work is **24 Months** (Including monsoon season) Additional information can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Harangi Rehabilitation Division, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha, Kushalanagar, Somwarpet Taluk, Kodagu District - 571234, Karnataka

Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shimoga Division, Shimoga

No.EE/PWD/Smg/AE-2/IFT-47/2025-26 Dtd:14-01-2026

Short Term Tender Notification -2 Cover system

Tender invited thro' E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class-2 & 3 above Contractors For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)

All Contractors

1. Hosanagara taluk 1 Work (I.No:31360)
2. Hosanagara taluk 1 Work (I.No:31375)
3. Hosanagara taluk 1 Work (I.No:31372)

Tender documents down loading & submission dates:

SL.NO (1) Date:19-01-2026 to 27-01-2026 (Work Complisation 6 Months (Including Mansoon) SL.No (2) Date: 19-01-2026 to 27-01-2026 (Work Complisation 9 Months (Including Mansoon) SI No (3) Date:19-01-2026 to 04-02-2026 (Work Complisation 11 Months (Including Mansoon). If there any changes in published tenders it will be publishing in E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in Website only

Sd/- EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/132/01/1643

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti - 584 115, Raichur Dist., Karnataka State. Phone: 08537-276339
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in
T.NO.27/25-26 No. HGML/2025-26/PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_1/CALL-2
Date: 17.01.2026

Tender Notification: Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) for Conducting Comprehensive Security Audit of HGML Facilities

Interested consultant/consultancy, firm/individual consultants shall visit the link **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for necessary details like General Conditions, Eligibility Criteria, etc., The interested agencies need to register with KPP Portal GoK, for participating EOI.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS : Pre-bid meeting (Zoom) : **22.01.2026 at 10.00 AM.** Last date for receipt of Bid : **14.02.2026 at 4.00 PM.** Date & Time for Opening of EOI Bid : **16.02.2026 at 10.00 AM.**

Sd/- I/c. Dy. General Manager (Materials)

LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Tel : 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080 22215602

No: DYES/Engg/AP/222/2025-26 **Date: 12.01.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Subject:- The Deputy Director (Admin), Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender to take up the following below works;

Particulars : 1) Construction of Taluk Stadium at Nidagundi Taluk in Vijayapura District. Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 165.44 Lakhs** EMD : **Rs 2,48,166/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **23.01.2026 time 16.00 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **27.01.2026 time 16.30 Hrs. 2)** Construction of Taluk Stadium at Basavana Bagevadi Taluk in Vijayapura District. Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 163.33 Lakhs** EMD : **Rs 2,45,002/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **27.01.2026 time 16.00 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **28.01.2026 time 16.30 Hrs. 3)** Construction of Taluk Stadium at Babaleshwara Taluk in Vijayapura District. Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 165.44 Lakhs** EMD : **Rs 2,48,164/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **27.01.2026 time 11.00 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **28.01.2026 time 11.30 Hrs. 4)** Construction of Viewers Gallery and Installation of Tensile Membrane roof at Koratagere Taluk Stadium in Tumkuru District. Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 249.48 Lakhs** EMD : **Rs 3,74,230/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **06.02.2026 time 16.00 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **07.02.2026 time 16.30 Hrs. 5)** Providing Project management consultancy service for construction of Cycling Velodrome at Bengaluru Rural (Doddaballapura) and Mysure District. (Call-4). Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs (each project),** EMD : **Rs 1,00,000/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **23.01.2026 time 16.00 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **27.01.2026 time 16.30 Hrs. 6)** Maintenance of lawn tennis court at Jayaprakash Narayan National Youth Training Centre Campus, Bangalore. (Call-2). Amount put to Tender : **----------,** EMD : **Rs 50,000/-.** Last Date and Time for Submission of bid: **19.01.2026 time 16.00 Hrs,** Date and Time for Opening of technical bid : **20.01.2026 time 16.30 Hrs.**

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address

Sd/-
Assistant Executive Engineer
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/5051/ZEN/2025-26

On mute

India's interests can be secured only by assertion of its strategic autonomy

The new year has brought little change in the geopolitical turmoil unleashed by the Trump administration, beginning with the U.S.'s unlawful action in Venezuela, followed by its threats to carry out similar regime-changing operations in South America and stated plans to annex Greenland. The U.S. Congress is now expected to discuss a new law that mandates up to 500% in tariffs on countries purchasing oil or uranium from Russia. The U.S. also stepped up its rhetoric against Iran for crackdowns against protesters, imposing more sanctions and threatening to attack it. In a social media post, Mr. Trump said that he would levy an additional 25% tariff on trade with any country doing business with Iran and the U.S. is pushing India to wind up operations at Chabahar port, where India has invested billions of dollars. In the face of such aggressive and unilateral actions, New Delhi's responses have been muted, when not weak. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has expressed "deep concern" over events in Venezuela, but did not mention the U.S.'s egregious action of kidnapping the Venezuelan President and his wife, nor did it refer to the violation of basic tenets of international law. No statement has been made on the threats against the other countries (Cuba and Colombia), presumably as they are not in India's immediate vicinity. On Iran, however, which is a close neighbour and has a historical relationship with India, the government's reaction has been the most puzzling. It has not commented on the street protests or the U.S.'s threats of strikes and tariffs. The MEA has, however, issued travel advisories for Iran and Israel and is preparing evacuation plans for Indian students in Iran. Government officials also say India will reduce its trade with Iran further from current low levels.

The government's motivations in not naming the U.S. for its obvious overreach can be explained. After a tense year in ties and a failure to conclude the India-U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement, there is some hope of some movement on relations soon. U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor has painted an optimistic future for ties, beginning with the trade agreement and the inclusion of India in the U.S.'s high-technology partnership 'Pax Silica' next month. Officials may argue that little can be gained by speaking up now and risking another downturn in ties. However, each new threat by the U.S. is hurting ordinary Indians and the Indian economy. Above all, India stands to lose economically, reputationally and in terms of its other relationships as well, in a year where it hopes to host the BRICS+ Summit. The Modi government's experience from 2019, when it gave up buying Iranian and Venezuelan oil under U.S. pressure should be a signal lesson – appeasement of a global power, however strong, cannot ensure India's interests, only an assertion of its strategic autonomy can do that.

Break open

This year's Australian Open offers many players a chance at history

Winning a career Grand Slam (acquiring all four Majors at least once) is one measure of a complete tennis player. At the 2026 Australian Open, which begins this Sunday, two players will have the opportunity to do it. Carlos Alcaraz and Iga Swiatek will be gunning for their maiden crowns in Melbourne, to go with the six Majors each that they have won elsewhere. In his quest to become the youngest male to complete the career Slam in the Open Era (from 1968), the World No.1 Spaniard is expected to face a stiff test from two-time defending champion Jannik Sinner. Also, Alcaraz's best result Down Under is quarterfinals (2024 and 2025), and the 22-year-old no longer has Juan Carlos Ferrero, the trusted mentor with whom he split from after seven rewarding years. Sinner, 24, will be on a mission of his own – to become the only man, apart from the legendary Novak Djokovic, to clinch a hat-trick of Australian Opens in the Open Era. For Swiatek, a clay-court great and the 2025 Wimbledon champion, the next two weeks offer the chance to further evolve. However, the 24-year-old will face an almighty challenge from No.1 Aryna Sabalenka, with the Belarusian's power-packed game and remarkable consistency – four wins, three finals and four semifinals from her last 12 Major appearances – making her the player to beat.

How 24-time Slam winner Djokovic fares will also be watched with interest. The 38-year-old, a record 10-time titlist in Australia, has not won a Major since the 2023 US Open. Though he reached the semifinals at all Slams in 2025, he was largely uncompetitive in those contests. This edition, he is in the same half as Sinner, to whom he has lost five matches in a row. The Serb will need a herculean effort to weaken the Alcaraz-Sinner hegemony that has swept the last eight Grand Slam tournaments. Though such dominance is not something that defines women's tennis, the likes of Coco Gauff and Amanda Anisimova have a reputation for repeatedly knocking on the doors. Gauff, despite her seemingly limited game, is a two-time Major winner, and Anisimova comes in having made both the Wimbledon and US Open finals recently. Equally, a surprising title run, such as American Madison Keys's at Melbourne Park in 2025, cannot be discounted. For India, it will be the first Slam after doubles star Rohan Bopanna's retirement. The nation does not have an active Major champion any more, and it will be a fourth straight Slam without singles representation. It will be up to Yuki Bhambri, No. 21 in doubles, to fly the flag high.

The Congress at 140, a crisis of structure

Zoya Hasan

is Professor Emerita, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

At 140 (on December 28, 2025), the Indian National Congress is grappling with the cumulative effects of long-standing institutional erosion. Senior party leader Digvijaya Singh's recent remarks praising the organisational strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), compared to the Congress, have brought this issue back into public debate. Yet any serious discussion must begin with a crucial distinction: the Congress and the BJP are not comparable political parties, and treating them as such obscures the structural roots of the Congress's decline.

The BJP operates within a dense ideological and institutional ecosystem anchored by the RSS and sustained by a constellation of affiliated organisations. The RSS underpins the BJP with major capabilities in propaganda, election management and booth-level coordination. No other party in India – and arguably none anywhere else – enjoys the advantage of such an external cadre base that continuously replenishes leadership, shapes ideology and undertakes political mobilisation independent of electoral cycles. By contrast, the Congress is not a cadre-based party, leaving it at a severe disadvantage due to the absence of trained workers at the district and booth levels.

Organisational erosion

The organisation that the Congress built in the early decades after Independence has undoubtedly declined, eroded over time by the centralisation and concentration of authority at the apex. The result has been a thinning of local leadership that is capable of sustained mass mobilisation, a sharp departure from an earlier period marked by dense political networks. Since the split of 1969, electoral leadership has progressively substituted for organisational depth, a tendency that persisted even through the 1990s. During that decade, leaders outside the Gandhi family headed the party, but there was little effort to renew or strengthen its internal structures.

At the same time, it would be misleading to describe the Congress today as a tightly centralised party. Indeed, it is arguably less centralised than the BJP, where authority is concentrated far more decisively around a single leader, particularly in the context of State-level electoral strategy. As political expert James Manor has observed with reference to the Karnataka Assembly elections 2023, the Congress has often permitted a markedly decentralised management of campaigns at the State level. The party thus remains loosely structured – plural, internally diverse and heterogeneous. While this was once a source of resilience, it has become a liability in a political conjuncture dominated in India, as elsewhere, by right-wing parties that thrive on ideological uniformity, disciplined mobilisation and strongman leadership. The challenge facing the Congress, therefore, is not simply one of centralisation versus decentralisation, but of rebuilding party capacity without sacrificing the intrinsic pluralism that distinguishes it from the BJP. Comparison with the BJP is misplaced, since it risks implying that the Congress must replicate the BJP's model as a prerequisite for electoral success.

> The challenge it faces amid right-wing political domination is of rebuilding party capacity without sacrificing its intrinsic pluralism

The myth of decentralisation

Much of the debate on decentralisation proceeds as though this dilemma was unique to the Congress. The fact is that no major party in India operates with genuine decentralisation. The BJP, in fact, maintains tight control over its State organisations, ensuring that Chief Ministers, State Presidents and indeed the Party Presidents remain accountable to the central leadership. The current BJP President, J.P. Nadda, and the recently appointed Working President, Nitin Nabin, hold office by nomination rather than by a vote of party members, whereas the Congress conducted elections for the post of Party President in 2022, an exercise that, whatever its limitations, was a sign of internal democracy.

Nonetheless, the absence of electoral processes within the BJP has received limited public or media scrutiny. Attention has instead centred on the centralisation of power within the Congress, suggesting that concerns about internal democracy were a concern only when one particular party was under examination.

This focus on centralisation also overlooks the extent to which the Congress continues to tolerate internal dissent. Unlike most Indian parties, it has allowed senior leaders and internal groupings such as the group of 23 senior Congress leaders, commonly referred to as the G-23, to publicly criticise the party's functioning and call for elected leadership, collective decision-making, and the revival of institutional structures without facing immediate marginalisation or expulsion. Indeed, many members of the G-23 continue to serve on the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision-making body. This tolerance of public dissent, however, should not be mistaken for political strength. It is a double-edged phenomenon: while it signals a measure of internal freedom, it also exposes the party's vulnerabilities and amplifies perceptions of factionalism and indecision. These weaknesses have repeatedly hampered the Congress in States such as Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan, where leadership tussles have blunted political growth. The very openness that distinguishes the Congress also reveals its fragility, underscoring the challenge of reconciling internal debate with decisive authority.

Repeated electoral debacles have exposed the Congress's structural weakness, most notably its lack of a durable grass-root presence. This deficit has become increasingly apparent as the BJP, backed by vast financial resources and an extensive party apparatus, has expanded into States where it had little presence a decade ago, while the Congress has remained ill-equipped to mount an effective counter. With its loose internal structure and thin local networks, the party has been unable to match what is arguably the most formidable political machine India has ever seen. The Congress's crushing performance in the November 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, where it managed a very poor strike rate, has brought these shortcomings into even sharper relief.

The Congress's Rahul Gandhi has on several occasions articulated a sharp critique of his party's institutional inertia, but his efforts to translate that critique into meaningful reform have repeatedly stalled. Attempts to rework internal hierarchies, challenge entrenched patronage networks, and devolve authority have met with stiff resistance from within the party, preventing it from evolving into an effective State-level organisation. Ironically, many senior leaders who loudly decry the Congress's organisational attrition have themselves been its biggest roadblocks to real reform. Their critiques, often couched in the language of internal democracy or decentralisation, have at times served more to preserve their own influence than to strengthen the party. This dynamic has produced a paradoxical environment: the Congress is simultaneously marked by vocal criticism of its decline and constrained by entrenched figures who, while claiming to champion reform, benefit from maintaining the status quo.

Where the party's problem lies

The real problem confronting the Congress is not centralisation per se, but weak internal democratisation. While decision-making authority has long been concentrated around the Gandhi family, the party's deeper weakness lies in its failure to nurture State- and district-level leadership or to create institutional pathways through which new voices can assume responsibility. It lacks the internal mechanisms that would allow central authority to be exercised through capable, accountable and socially embedded leaders. This helps explain the continued dominance of dynastic leadership and a narrow cohort of senior figures, even as the party struggles to mobilise support across States or sustain a credible opposition.

Institutional restructuring and renewal are imperative precisely for this reason. The Congress needs leaders who are rooted in mass support rather than have office-bearers in Delhi with limited connection to the ground. This is particularly vital in an increasingly unequal political arena, where the BJP enjoys overwhelming advantages in financial resources, media access and narrative control. With electoral bonds struck down but electoral trusts now taking their place continuing to channel the bulk of corporate funding to the ruling party, and with much of the mainstream media aligned with power, Opposition politics cannot rely on episodic mobilisation alone. Only a revitalised party, driven by a radical progressive vision and capable of sustained mass engagement, can offset these structural disadvantages and enable the Congress to emerge as a credible and durable alternative to the Right.

Budget 2026-27 must keep the growth momentum

Jyoti Vij

is Director General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)

India faced global headwinds in 2025 but belied fears that America's 50% tariffs would hurt its economy. The resilience of the Indian economy had a lot to do with the government's reformist measures. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi said recently, "2025 will be remembered as a year when India treated reforms as a continuous national mission." Budget 2026-27 can give a fillip to the mission.

India needs to strengthen the domestic levers of growth. This can be done by prioritising growth-enhancing productive capital expenditure and social sector spending, while maintaining the current fiscal consolidation glide path and keeping debt risks contained.

Continue the focus on defence

First, the government should continue the focus on defence, with higher expenditure on the capex. The share of capital outlay in defence should be enhanced to 30% from the budgetary estimate for 2025-26 of 26.4%. The budgetary allocation for the Defence Research and Development Organisation should also be increased by at least ₹10,000 crore. Defence industrial corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have made strides in promoting defence indigenisation and raising defence production. The government should consider establishing an eastern India defence industrial corridor.

Second, private enterprises have played a key role in augmenting defence exports in recent times, contributing nearly 65% of total defence exports in 2024-25. There can be a further boost by setting up a defence export promotion council for enhanced coordination with armed services, their foreign directorates, defence public sector undertakings, private manufacturers, the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian embassies, the Ministry of Defence, and communicate with foreign governments and buyers. This will also help achieve the target of defence exports set at ₹50,000 crore by 2028-29.

Third, a transition toward clean energy, advanced manufacturing, electric mobility, semiconductors and strategic technologies is driving a demand for critical minerals. The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), approved in early 2025 provides a strong strategic foundation to secure these materials. This can be supplemented by a dedicated critical minerals tailings recovery programme under the NCMM, with the purpose of treating tailings recovery. The government should also consider offering dedicated financing for this.

> The steps to take must include strengthening the domestic levers of growth, policy certainty and sorting out structural bottlenecks

Fourth, exports need a significant policy thrust in the current global environment. The present budgetary allocation for the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products Scheme, at around ₹18,233 crore needs to be raised significantly to make the exports more competitive.

Fifth, India has emerged as the world's leading hub for Global Capability Centres, but its transfer pricing (TP) framework has yet to evolve. The government may consider issuing clear guidance on acceptable TP models for different categories.

Sixth, to accelerate drone adoption, global competitiveness, and exports, the government should consider catalysing scale through targeted financial support, including enhancing the production linked incentive outlay from ₹120 crore to ₹1,000 crore and setting up a ₹1,000 crore drone research and development fund.

Finance credit and tax disputes

Seventh, deepening the corporate bond markets is critical for diversification of finance credit beyond the banking system. The government could consider lowering the qualifying borrowing threshold and include listed and unlisted corporates to widen the issuer base and stimulate bond supply, encourage large corporations to diversify borrowings through market issuances, increase investment caps for insurance companies beyond the current 25% limit and revise the 'Approved Investment' threshold from AA to AA-, enabling prudent allocation into high-quality but lower-rated issuers. It could also permit provident funds to invest in non-convertible debentures issued by infrastructure investment trusts and real estate investment trusts, enabling long-term capital to support infrastructure aggregation vehicles.

Eighth, measures to address disputes pendency need to be prioritised. The first appellate level in direct tax disputes, the office of the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) or CIT(A), is facing severe pendency. There is a need to prioritise high-pitched assessments, cases with complete submissions, cases covered by jurisdictional High Court or Supreme Court rulings, appeals older than five years, and matters that are chronologically the oldest. The need is a dual-track disposal system: a fast-track for simple or low-value matters and a detailed track for complex or high-value matters. Also, around 40% vacancies at the CIT(A) level need to be filled.

Ninth, newly incorporated companies (even for new companies formed by established Authorised Economic Operator or AEO-accredited groups) are ineligible for certification by the AEO. Removing this restriction for AEO-accredited groups will help enhance trade efficiency and facilitate greater trade.

Tenth, the reforms related to customs tariffs introduced in the last Budget must continue. Further reduction in the customs tariffs slabs can help streamline the duty structure, address the issue of inverted duties and benefit trade. Import duties should be calibrated across the value chain to support domestic manufacturing competitiveness and address the inverted duties.

Ensure competitiveness

Budget 2026-27 must focus on sustaining India's growth momentum by deepening competitiveness across sectors and strengthening the domestic engines of expansion. By combining fiscal prudence with unlocking growth potential across industries, ensuring policy certainty and addressing structural bottlenecks, the Budget can crowd in private investment and enhance India's global competitiveness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Incarceration without trial

The Editorial page article (January 15, 2025) only reiterates the well-accepted principle put forth by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer — that bail is the rule and jail is an exception. Despite this, Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam continue to languish in jail while the others have been released. Detention without trial is a gross violation of the fundamental right under Article 21. The same principle should apply to the two men as it was applied to the others. There cannot be any distinguishing feature as long detention by itself is a good reason for their release on bail. The top court, which routinely chides the executive for violation of constitutional guarantees, is itself violating Article 14. It can no longer claim to be the *sentinel on the qui vive*.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

GROUND ZERO

A team that is part of the search operation camps in Chaibasa. AMIT BHELARI

In Jharkhand, a tusker on a rampage

A male elephant, which has killed at least 20 people in the Chaibasa and Kolhan forest areas of West Singhbhum district, has become the symbol of the human-wildlife conflict in Jharkhand. A massive operation involving more than 100 forest personnel is under way to track the animal. **Amit Bhelari** reports on the attacks, which have led to panic in the villages, and the ongoing search

Madhu Tati, 75, shudders as he remembers the morning of January 9 when he couldn't bear to see the decapitated body of his 50-year-old son. Prakash, who used to operate heavy machinery and earn ₹15,000 a month, in Benisagar village in Majhgaon block of West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand, was killed by an elephant.

Madhu recalls the morning being cold. Most of the family was asleep. "Prakash was recovering from jaundice," he says. "Every day, we would give him a glass of milk. When we put the vessel of milk on the *chulha* (earthen stove), we heard some people screaming. They were saying an elephant had entered the village."

Prakash stepped outside to see what the commotion was about, promising to drink the milk once he returned. An hour went by, but there was still no sign of him. "A villager then came home. He told me that my son had been killed by a mad elephant," says Madhu.

Madhu's wife, 70-year-old Kuni Devi, says if her son had only waited for the milk to boil, he would have been alive. "Our world is shattered," she says. Speaking of her son's support, she adds, "He was planning to do construction work on the house, which has been pending for two years."

Prakash's wife, Sanju Patro, sobs as she neatly folds her late husband's clothes. "How are we going to live our lives? Who will now support us financially? Who will look after my younger daughter," she cries. "I told him not to go out that morning; why did he not listen to me?"

The couple has two daughters – the older daughter, Jaigosini, 30, is married, while the younger one, Kalpana, 20, helps her mother in daily household chores.

Prakash was among the 20 people killed by a wild single-tusked male elephant in the Chaibasa and Kolhan forest areas of West Singhbhum district between January 1 and 9. The attacks have mainly taken place at night in villages. With the elephant going on a rampage, and the death toll rising, a massive search operation has been launched to locate the tusker.

A climate of fear

Benisagar village is situated just a few steps from the border of Odisha. It falls under Kharposh panchayat, which has a population of 14,000. The people of the village mostly depend on farming for their livelihood. Some people have migrated to other States such as Haryana, Punjab, and West Bengal, and work as labourers.

The panchayat head, Pratap Chandra Chatar, 50, says the people are now panic-stricken. With deaths escalating, they only move in groups. All the children of the village have been instructed to remain inside their homes. No resident of the village ventures outside after sunset. Some villagers have also stopped sleeping in their homes and have moved to safer places on higher ground. Many have also begun sleeping at Pratap's house, a concrete structure with a large hall that can accommodate around 50 villagers. Pratap says he provides them with food at night.

> Elephants are always visible in this area. They pass through the village, but they never attack humans. This is the first time this has happened.
>
> **HARISH CHATOMBA**
> Forester

"I have also asked the villagers to keep their pets inside their homes. On January 9, three people were killed, including a forest official. The elephant not only killed them, but also two buffalo, one goat, and a dog," says Pratap.

The residents say the elephant has also destroyed many houses in the village. The extent of the damage can be seen everywhere. Thirty-year-old Alka Chatar's clay and mud house has a gaping hole in it; she says the elephant tried to demolish the house with its tusk.

For others, the experience has been a lot worse. Ram Keria, 35, recounts his encounter with the elephant with horror. "It was terrifying seeing it come. I started running and also grabbed the hands of children who were moving curiously towards it. It killed three people in a 100-metre radius and did not even allow the forest officials to go near their bodies," he says.

Damodar Kuldi, 20, in Haldia village, was also killed by the elephant on January 9. According to his family, he had stepped out to relieve himself when the tusker attacked, killing him instantly.

Damodar lived with his uncle, Rensu Kuldi. When he met Amrita Kuldi, from Mayurbhanj in neighbouring Odisha, he fell in love and the two of them got married. Amrita, 18, is three months pregnant. "It is painful not having him around. Who will look after my child," she weeps. Rensu says if Amrita wishes to remarry, the family will support her decision.

As night falls in Haldia, the residents of the village keep bonfires burning and try to stay awake until morning. They say the forest department has supplied materials for bonfires in every village the elephant has walked through.

Mohammad Jabirul, one of the villagers, offers another idea. "If a trench six to seven feet deep is dug around the village, the elephant cannot enter," he says. Conversations on keeping the elephant at bay animate the village all day.

The search

The first fatal elephant attack was reported on January 1 in Roro and its surrounding villages in the Khuntipani block of West Singhbhum district: three people were killed at night while they were asleep. After that, the tusker killed 17 people in West Singhbhum district.

Alka points to the damage caused to her house by the elephant. AMIT BHELARI

"We have not got photos of any other elephant through drone cameras; only that one tusker. So, we are sure that it is the same elephant that has killed everyone," says Aditya Narayan, Divisional Forest Officer, Chaibasa.

Aditya says the team is moving across all the areas where the elephant has gone. "As soon as we get any information through forest rangers, we move towards that place. We have also set up a camp at Benisagar. Our team is monitoring and scanning the area round the clock," he adds.

More than 100 people have been roped in by the Jharkhand Forest Department to capture the elephant. A team of specialists has been called from Odisha and West Bengal to tranquilise the animal. A team from Vantara, the wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and conservation centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat, also visited the affected villages, did a recce, and went back. The Vantara team was there to monitor the movement of the elephant and give guidance and suggestions, Aditya says.

"I understand there is a lot of fear among the villagers," he says. "But everyone needs to cooperate with the forest officials. Even if there is a small lapse, that could increase the chance of an untoward incident. We do not want to take any chances. That is why we send our team to the location even if we think it is just a rumour."

He emphasises that it is important for villagers to be on alert. "Our team has given instructions to build confidence among the villagers," he says.

Harish Chatomba, a forester who is deputed at the camp in Benisagar, says, "Elephants are always visible in this area. They pass through the village, but they never attack humans. This is the first time this has happened. Our team is working hard. Our first priority is to trace the elephant, capture it, and make it return to its herd."

Harish says there is a chance that the elephant might be in the mating phase. "This makes it much more aggressive as it looks for female elephants," he explains.

Narayan Kumar, the head of one of the teams in the camp, roams around in an open jeep with firecrackers and a torch. "After January 9, no new cases have been reported. On January 14, an elephant was seen in the area but it was not the same one we are looking for. It did not hurt anyone. When we lit the firecrackers, it went into the forest," he says. Narayan adds that the tusker which has killed 20 people frequently changes its location, which makes it hard to track.

A fatal encounter

On the night of January 6, four members of a family were killed by the elephant at Babaria village at Noamundi block of West Singhbhum district when they were sleeping outside their house on a *gunyu*, a temporary platform built by the Ho tribe during the paddy harvest.

The victims were Sonathan Merul, 55; his wife Jhaloko Kui, 45; and two children Damyanti Meral, 8; and Mughu Meral, 5. Two other children – 12-year-old Jaipal Meral and 8-year-old Sushila Meral – survived the attack. They and are now staying with their uncle, Tupura Laguri. Sushila escaped with a fracture on her left leg. She is undergoing treatment at a government hospital.

"My elder sister, her husband, and their two children all lost their lives. Now, I have to take care of the other two children," says Tupura. "Losing parents at such a young age is disturbing. Jaipal is still in trauma as he watched his parents being killed." He adds that they do not want to stay in their house any more; it remains shut.

His wife, Jema Kui, 33, is worried. "We are small farmers and we struggle for our daily earnings. We have three children. To suddenly have two more members in the family is tough. But we cannot ignore them," she says.

About 200 meters away, a 36-year-old farmer, Gurucharan Laguri, was killed, also while sleeping on a *gunyu*. He is survived by a five-year-old son. His younger brother, Debo Laguri, 30, who works in a factory, says his brother bled heavily after the elephant attacked him. The animal also injured three children, he says.

> It was terrifying seeing it come. It killed three people in a 100-metre radius and did not even allow the forest officials to go near their bodies
>
> **RAM KERIA**
> Villager

Gurucharan's sister, Jano Laguri, says raising her brother's child will be a challenge for her. She urged the State government to give a government job to one member of the family and raise the compensation amount from ₹4 lakh to ₹10 lakh.

Dwindling habitats

The Saranda forest is spread over 82,000 hectares in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district. It is home to several animals such as elephants and bison, and also to tribal communities. It hosts the Singhbhum elephant reserve, India's first elephant reserve created in 2001 under the Central government's Project Elephant, to conserve elephants and their habitats. It has also been used by the Indian Forest Service (IFS) to train officers.

The forest, however, faces threats. A December 2025 study by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, titled 'Two Decades of Human-Elephant Conflict in Jharkhand: Spatial and Ecological Drivers of Human Fatalities', highlights the adverse impact of iron ore mining on local wildlife. It says, "The degradation of elephant habitats in Jharkhand has far-reaching consequences for both elephants and humans. For local communities, the economic and social impacts of the human-elephant conflict are severe. Crop losses, property damage, and human fatalities have become common, particularly in districts such as West Singhbhum, Giridih, and Hazaribagh."

IFS officer Srikant Verma, who has been associated with several cases of human-animal conflict, cites the possible reasons for this particular elephant's behaviour. "In the case of a loner, especially a male, such incidents happen when the elephant gets separated from its herd and is not guided by an older elephant. The loner becomes more aggressive if it is instigated by humans."

Srikant, who also serves as Divisional Forest Officer, Ranchi, adds, "This happened in February 2023, but that was not a large elephant like this one; it was only six years old. In Hazaribagh, it killed five people; in Chatra and Ranchi, it killed four people each. When the loner met a herd, no more deaths were reported." He explains that elephants are obedient when they are in a herd, as they have protective tendencies.

According to the Jharkhand Forest, Environment, and Climate Change Department, at least 1,270 people have died due to elephant attacks in Jharkhand in the last 18 years. Around 150 elephant deaths have been reported in the same period. A report released by the Wildlife Institute of India, titled 'Status of Elephants in India: DNA-based Synchronous All-India Population Estimation of Elephants (SAIEE 2021-25)', says that there are 217 elephants in Jharkhand, compared to 678 recorded in 2017. It says, "Human activities have substantially alerted elephant habitats, confining these elephants to fragmented landscapes linked solely by agricultural lands and human settlements, [which are] insufficient to fulfil their dietary and water requirement adequately. Between 2004 and 2017, 30 elephant mortalities were recorded, primarily due to diseases, electrocution, poisoning, poaching and train accidents."

Even as the conflict plays out, in the villages, fear is accompanied by hope. Vidyadhar Chatar, a resident of Benisagar, says, "We pray that the elephant should not harm anyone else. I hope it is captured soon, so we can all sleep in peace."

amit.bhelari@thehindu.co.in

From Page One

44,000 start-ups added in 2025, says Modi

Speaking to the presspersons after the event, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the focus of the Fund of Funds 2.0, approved in April 2025 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore, would be on deep tech, particularly in areas witnessing a lot of innovation, such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum technologies, defence, and aerospace.

"These are areas where the country has a need, and where we want to become a global leader," Mr. Goyal said. "Usually, startups in these areas take a long time to reach the proof-of-concept stage and become successful. The focus will be to make more risk capital available for this."

Justice Varma's plea against panel rejected

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla admitted the MPs' notice of motion for the removal of Justice Varma on August 12 last year, a day after the Deputy Rajya Sabha Chairman had rejected a separate notice by the Members of his House.

The Deputy Chairman had assumed the duties of then Chairman and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who resigned from office on July 21, the very day both notices for removal were submitted by MPs in their respective Houses.

In court, Justice Varma had argued that the Speaker did wrong to "unilaterally" constitute the committee under the Judges (Inquiry) Act. Since the notices were given in the two Houses of Parliament on the same day, both Houses should have admitted them.

The High Court judge said the committee ought to have been formed by the Rajya Sabha Chairman and the Lok Sabha Speaker jointly. He referred to the first proviso of Section 3(2) of the Act in his favour.

The judge had contended that the proviso should be read strictly. A loose interpretation would not only mar his reputation, but impact the constitutional safeguards provided to the institution of judiciary, exposing judges to arbitrary or biased removal motions by MPs.

Disagreeing with Justice Varma's reasoning, Justice Datta, who authored the verdict, held the proviso would apply only if notices given on the same day were admitted in both Houses. In the present case, one House had rejected while the other had admitted the notice.

"There is nothing in the Inquiry Act to suggest that rejection of a motion in one House would render the other House incompetent to proceed in accordance with law... The interpretation advanced by the petitioner (J. Varma) of rejection of a notice in one House resulting in the notice automatically failing in the other House would entail consequences of a most serious nature. The Members would be put to square one and the process has to be initiated afresh in either House," Justice Datta reasoned.

The court said a House of Parliament cannot be deprived of its autonomy because the other House chose to reject the notice of motion.

It said the mere loss of having a "joint committee" has not caused Justice Varma any legal prejudice. After all, the inquiry committee's task was restricted to submission of a report. The ultimate decision of his removal would lie with the MPs.

Mahayuti wins civic polls in Maharashtra

The AIMIM became a surprise element. The party has claimed victory on 98 seats across Maharashtra, with eight in Mumbai alone, upsetting power combinations.

For the first time, Thackerays lost control of India's richest civic body BMC after ruling it for over 25 years.

In several corporations, Sharad Pawar's party, the NCP-SP, drew a blank. His party won 12 seats in Bhivandi-Nizampur, helping the tally reach 15. Except in Mumbai, Mr. Thackeray's party won seats in single digits in other places. Ajit Pawar's NCP faced substantial electoral losses. In Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad, where he had joined hands with his uncle Sharad Pawar against the BJP, the saffron party trumped the duo. He said he respected the people's will as supreme.

The Congress suffered a massive setback in several constituencies. It claimed to have won 350 of the 2,869 seats that went to polls, with mayors in five cities. It emerged as the single largest party in Chandrapur. The party said that it will jointly be in power in 10 other corporations and accused the BJP of winning on the basis of bogus voting and money distribution.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the NDA for the victory. "I am very proud of every NDA karyakarta who worked tirelessly among people across Maharashtra. They talked about our alliance's track record, highlighted our vision for the coming times and also effectively countered the lies of the Opposition. My best wishes to them. Thank you Maharashtra!," he posted on X.

"Mumbai's mayor will be a Marathi, a Hindu," Mr. Fadnavis said in Nagpur. "I am grateful to the people of Maharashtra for the massive victory. We have broken all the records...We took the agenda of development in this election. The mandate is indicative that people want honesty, people want development," he said in his victory speech.

He attributed the party's success to Hindutva, calling it "all-encompassing".

HC seeks Centre's reply on Iran's detention of 16 Indian seafarers

Family members of detainees claim the govt. has not provided any support despite repeated requests; SC tells Union government to provide consular access to all detainees, ensure timely completion of probe, facilitate repatriation to India

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Seafarer families, including the kin of Ketan Mehta (in picture), have sought the government's urgent intervention. ANI VIDEOGRAB

The Delhi High Court has issued notice to the Union government while hearing a plea by family members of 16 Indian seafarers who were detained by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards (IRG) on December 8. At the time, they were on a vessel in international waters off the Dibba port near Dubai.

"This petition is by the family members of sixteen Indian nationals who have been detained in the Islamic Republic of Iran, for directions to the respondent - Union of India to take steps to provide consular access to the detained persons and to secure timely completion of investigation and their repatriation to India," Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav said in an order on January 15.

'No MEA help yet'

The petitioners say the seafarers have not got any legal, financial, or consular aid from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), despite repeated requests over the past month. They added that ten of the seafarers have been taken to Bandar Abbas prison, while eight remain onboard the vessel.

According to the Consul General of India in Bandar Abbas, consular access has not been granted by the Iranian authorities despite requests. The matter has been posted for hearing on January 21, according to Gurinder Pal Singh, counsel for the seafarers.

"The petitioners have been detained without disclosing the grounds for detention or issuing any formal detention order for over thirty days, in violation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 to which both India and Iran are signatories," the court noted.

The families said that the crew has been confined to a single mess room of the vessel and were allowed to use the washroom only under armed escort. All personal belongings, mobile phones, laptops, and electronic devices have been confiscated. Till date, Iranian authorities have not issued any formal detention order nor disclosed the grounds for detention, rendering the continued custody arbitrary, illegal, and in violation of international law, the petitioners said.

The government's counsel said that due steps have been taken by the Centre, which will further ensure that all assistance is rendered to the petitioners to redress grievances.

The petitioners have said that the vessel *MT Valiant Roar* was carrying Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (VLSFO) but Iran has accused the seafarers of smuggling diesel. The cargo was loaded on the subject vessel via ship-to-ship transfers over a period of time and was originally loaded on *MT Global Beauty* from Vitol at Fujairah Port, UAE sometime in July 2024.

At the time of the incident, the vessel was operating in international waters near Dibba Port, UAE. Following the cargo operations, the vessel remained moored alongside its sister vessel, *MT Coral Wave* for several days due to a technical issue. Once repairs were completed, the vessel finally unmoored on December 8, 2025 and was awaiting further navigational instructions.

That day, the Master of the Vessel, Captain Vijay Kumar, sent a brief but distressing voicemail to his brother Captain Vinod Tanwar, stating that the vessel was being chased by the IRG while sailing in international waters.

After this, petitioner No.1 (the brother of Capt. Vijay Kumar) contacted the vessel's operator in Dubai, who informed him that the vessel had been intercepted by the IRG and that the crew members had been arrested and forcibly taken to Bandar-e-Jask, Iran. The vessel was instructed by the Iranian Navy/Revolutionary Guards to lower the pilot ladder for boarding which was lawfully refused by the Master, being fully conscious of the vessel's right of innocent passage under international maritime law.

"Thereafter, the Iranian Navy opened heavy fire, causing visible damage to the vessel and likely injuries to the crew members," the petition said.

'Talks on Chabahar will continue with U.S. and Iran'

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India remains engaged with both the United States and Iran about ways to continue operations at the port of Chabahar in southeastern Iran, officials said on Friday.

India's relationship with Iran has come under renewed stress since U.S. President Donald Trump announced a new round of tariffs on January 12. The announcement brought into focus India's investments into the port of Chabahar, for which New Delhi had received an exemption from the Trump administration last year. Recent media reports had suggested that India would be wrapping up its work in Chabhar.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Friday, "On October 28, 2025, the U.S. Department of Treasury had issued a letter outlining the guidance on the conditional sanctions waiver valid till April 26, 2026. We remain engaged with the U.S. side in working out this arrangement." Describing the India-Iran relationship as "long standing", he said that the ties would be taken forward.

ED attaches 54-acre land and buildings of Al-Falah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a prosecution complaint against Al-Falah Group chief Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui and others after provisionally attaching 54-acre land along with the buildings thereon, cumulatively worth about ₹139.97 crore. The agency has quantified the total proceeds of alleged crime in the case as ₹493.24 crore, it said on Friday.

The case pertains to alleged generation and laundering of funds linked to Al-Falah Charitable Trust/Al-Falah University and allied institutions/entities. Mr. Siddiqui was arrested on November 18, 2025, and is currently in judicial custody.

Al-Falah University had come into the limelight after three doctors working there were found allegedly linked to a "terror" module. Two of them, named Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie and Shaheen Saeed were held, while the third one – identified as Umar-Un-Nabi – was identified as the person who was allegedly behind the wheels of the car that exploded near the Red Fort on November 10, 2025.

The ED probe was based on an FIR registered by the Delhi Police on January 10. "Fraudulent misrepresentations to regulators/stakeholders and consequential admissions and fee collections" was alleged.

The agency said Mr. Siddiqui played an active role. "He exercised dominant control over Al-Falah Charitable Trust, Al-Falah University and related entities, and is found a key beneficiary of the unlawful proceeds. As managing trustee and chancellor, he exercised complete administrative, financial and operational control, with other office-bearers functioning as nominal/proxy persons," it alleged, adding that over ₹110 crore was routed to family-controlled firms.

Jharkhand HC stays action against ED officials by State police, orders Central security cover

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

CISF personnel outside the ED office amid the Centre's security enhancement for ED establishments in Ranchi on Thursday. PTI

The Jharkhand High Court on Friday stayed all action against Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials by the Ranchi police and directed that the security of the ED office and its personnel in the State capital be handed over to a Central paramilitary force.

Passing an interim order, the court of Justice Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi directed the Central agency to make the Union Home Secretary a party in the case. The court also ordered the Union Home Secretary to depute either the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), the Border Security Force (BSF), or any other central paramilitary force to provide security to the ED office in Ranchi and its staff. The court fixed February 9 as the next date of hearing.

The court was hearing a writ petition filed by the ED on Thursday, challenging a police raid at its Ranchi office in connection with an FIR lodged against its officials. The FIR was lodged at the Airport police station by a former State government employee. The court further observed that the Ranchi Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) would be responsible for security at the ED office and its staff.

Staying the police investigation for now, the court also observed that the recent police raid on the ED office in Ranchi *prima facie* appeared "pre-planned" and directed the State government to file its response within 7 days. The complainant, Santosh Kumar, was also asked to file his
response within 10 days.

The controversy arose after ED officials interrogated Santosh Kumar, an accused in an alleged ₹23-crore money laundering case, on January 12. Mr. Kumar, an employee of the State Public Health and Engineering Department, lodged an FIR the next day at the Airport police station, accusing the ED officials of assault, abuse and torture during the investigation. The ED denied the allegations.

Following the FIR, the Ranchi police summoned ED officials on Wednesday. When they failed to appear, a police team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Sanjeev Besra raided the ED office on Thursday, leading to a tense standoff between the federal agency and the State police that lasted for several hours. Later that day, the ED approached the court seeking a CBI probe into the police raid, alleging "direct interference" in its functioning.

The Opposition BJP termed the police action a "direct attack on the autonomy of the Central investigating agency".

EU leaders to be chief guests at Republic Day function

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

European Council president Antonio Costa and European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen.

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Friday announced that European Union leaders Antonio Costa, President of the European Council, and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, will be the chief guests at India's 77th Republic Day celebrations.

In a briefing to presspersons ahead of Republic Day, he said that the 90-minute Republic Day Parade on January 26 along Kartavya Path will be themed around 150 years of 'Vande Mataram', a theme that will also anchor the Beating the Retreat ceremony.

In a symbolic move to end "VIP culture", the Defence Secretary announced that enclosures at the Republic Day Parade will be named after rivers of India, while those at the Beating Retreat ceremony will be named after musical instruments. Earlier, these were referred to as VIP enclosures. The parade will feature several first-time military showcases, including the Bhairav Battalion, Shaktibaan regiments, Drone Shakti, and a universal rocket launcher.

A major highlight will be the phased battle array format of the Indian Army, with commentary explaining the operational roles of formations and equipment. The aerial component will also be displayed in battle array formation, he said.

For the first time, a European naval contingent will also take part in the parade.

Mr. Singh further said that the celebrations will open with 100 cultural artists performing with Indian martial musical instruments.

Marching contingents will include the Bhairav contingent in '*Uncha Kadam Taal*' and the Ladakh Scouts, while an animal contingent comprising Zanskar ponies, Bactrian camels and dogs will reflect India's diverse operational landscape.

A total of 18 marching contingents and 13 bands will participate in the parade. The flypast will showcase Rafale, Su-30, P-8I, C-130, C-295, MiG-29, Apache, LCH, ALH and Mi-17 aircraft and helicopters in various formations.

'Vande Mataram' will be the central focus of the celebrations, with tableaux from six States and departments highlighting the theme.

Paintings by artist Tejendra Kumar Mitra illustrating verses of 'Vande Mataram' will be displayed at Kartavya Path.

SC stays Mukul Roy's disqualification from Bengal Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mukul Roy

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed a Calcutta High Court order disqualifying politician Mukul Roy from the West Bengal Legislative Assembly for defecting to the Trinamool Congress on the basis of a video clipping of a press conference allegedly showing him with leaders of the ruling party in the State.

"In this AI [artificial intelligence] era, anybody's face can be used in a video," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant observed, brushing aside objections raised by senior advocate Gaurab Agarwal, appearing for West Bengal Opposition leader Suvendu Adhikari.

The court *prima facie* agreed with the submissions of advocate Preetika Dwivedi, appearing in the petition filed by Subhranshu Roy on behalf of his father, that the rigours of Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act, which provides the legal framework for authentication of electronic evidence, were not complied with.

"Imagine, the High Court used the principle of 'preponderance of probability' (something is more likely to be true than false) to decide a defection case," Chief Justice Kant noted.

Ms. Dwivedi submitted that the Speaker had rejected the disqualification petition for several valid reasons, including the fact that only screenshots from social media platforms were produced.

Democratic institutions need to be transparent: Om Birla

Speaker says consensus and dissent are strengths of democracy but must be expressed within the framework of parliamentary propriety; conference discusses responsible use of AI in parliaments and the impact of social media

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addressing the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth in New Delhi on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Democratic institutions can remain strong and relevant when they are transparent, inclusive, responsive, and accountable to people, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Friday.

Addressing the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC), Mr. Birla observed that transparency fosters public trust by ensuring openness in decision-making, while inclusivity guarantees that all voices, especially those on the margins, are heard and respected in the democratic process.

Together, these principles sustain the legitimacy of democratic institutions and strengthen the enduring bond between the citizen and the state, he said.

Earlier, Mr. Birla observed that modern democracies face both unprecedented opportunities and complex, multi-dimensional challenges.

Noting that the true relevance of parliaments lies in their ability to respond to citizens' expectations and aspirations, he said that the foremost duty of presiding officers was to continuously adapt democratic institutions to contemporary needs while remaining anchored in constitutional values.

He held that consensus and dissent are both strengths of democracy, but must be expressed within the framework of parliamentary propriety and in this context, the role of the presiding officer was described as decisive in safeguarding the dignity of the House, ensuring impartiality and reinforcing institutional credibility.

Enhanced discussion directly contributes to greater transparency, accountability and strengthened public trust in legislatures, he added.

During the conference, discussions were held on the responsible use of artificial intelligence in parliaments, the impact of social media, citizen engagement beyond elections, and the health and well-being of Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff.

"These deliberations helped presiding officers gain greater clarity about their evolving roles and responsibilities at a critical juncture where democratic traditions intersect with rapid technological change," Mr. Birla said.

Next conference in U.K.

During the valedictory session, the Speaker handed over the chairmanship of the next conference to Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the United Kingdom's House of Commons. The U.K. will host the next CSPOC in 2028.

Recalling the vision behind the establishment of CSPOC, Mr. Birla said it was conceived to ensure continuous dialogue among the democratic legislatures of the Commonwealth.

Maharashtra municipal elections verdict offers early cues for 2029 showdown

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis celebrates with party colleagues in Mumbai on Friday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The results of the Maharashtra municipal corporation elections, which were declared on Friday, have set the mood for the 2029 Assembly election, firmly pitching the BJP as the strongest party in the State.

By winning 1,400 seats, and by trumping allies and Deputy Chief Ministers Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde in key constituencies, the BJP has shown how it will likely dominate the Mahayuti government for the next three years.

The Congress has emerged the biggest Opposition party in the rest of Maharashtra, but in Mumbai, where the most high-stakes battle took place, the Shiv Sena (UBT), led by Uddhav Thackeray, emerged as the principal Opposition to the BJP.

The results show the likely power dynamics within the Mahayuti and also raise questions about the future of the Maha Vikas Aghadi as a collective Opposition front.

The BJP has won four times more seats than the Congress (324), the principal Opposition party in Maharashtra, and thrice that of Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena (397), the second largest party. Not only have the results hinted at the power dynamics in the State henceforth, but they have also shown who the primary Opposition party will be in the next election, painting a bleak future for regional parties like Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP) and Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena.

The results have shown a weakened Sharad Pawar, whose party could not even open account in several corporations.

Thackeray brand

The magic of the Thackeray brand is likely to have worked in Mumbai for Uddhav Thackeray, whose party became the second largest party after the BJP, giving tough time to Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in the contest to capture the Marathi vote bank. In Mumbai, the BJP won 89 seats, while Mr. Uddhav's party got 65 seats.

But the same brand did not work for MNS chief Raj Thackeray, whose political fortunes have dwindled despite trying all possible combinations in the past few years.

His party gained only six seats in Mumbai, which contributed to the 13 seats across Maharashtra.

His minor sphere of electoral influence has been arrested to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region area. In Nashik, where his party had once ruled, he could get only one seat. The efforts of the Thackeray cousins, who reunited after a gap of 20 years, were to consolidate the Marathi vote bank. That emotive appeal seems to have worked in the core Marathi voter belt of Mumbai, consisting of Dadar, Mahim, and Parel. Mr. Uddhav and Mr. Raj trumped Mr. Shinde's candidates in these constituencies.

The question of who the Shiv Sena belongs to in Mumbai, seems to have been resolved by the voters. But, in the rest of the State, Mr. Uddhav's performance was dismal.

Jolt to Ajit Pawar

NCP leader Ajit Pawar, who campaigned against ally BJP in an attempt to wrest control of Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad corporations, faced an embarrassing defeat there. This, despite the fact that he joined hands with uncle Sharad Pawar after a gap of two years. While Mr. Sharad sits in the Opposition, Mr. Ajit is the Deputy Chief Minister and shares power with the BJP. His party emerged fourth among the six major parties, securing 160 seats.

BJP announces schedule to elect new party chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nitin Nabin

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) paved the way for the election of its current national working president Nitin Nabin as the party president on Friday, announcing the schedule to 'elect' the party chief.

The BJP said that nominations for the post will be filed on January 19 and the name of the new chief will be announced the next day.

Nomination for the election of the party chief can be filed between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on January 19 and can be withdrawn between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. the same day, said the organisational poll schedule released by BJP national returning officer and Rajya Sabha member K. Laxman.

It is unlikely that a second candidate will file a nomination.

Polling will be held "if needed" on January 20 and an official announcement of the name of the new national president will be made the same day, Mr. Laxman said.

The entire poll process will be held at the party headquarters in Delhi. Sources have confirmed that three sets of nomination papers for Mr. Nabin will be filed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah as proposers.

On January 20, there will be a public function at the party headquarters where Mr. Modi is expected to be present.

Mr. Nabin will succeed Health Minister J.P. Nadda as the BJP national president. BJP presidents have a tenure of three years. In Mr. Nadda's case it was extended by a year in 2023 to ensure organisational continuity in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The election process began late in 2023 with mandal, district and state-level units electing their presidents and office bearers. For the national president to be elected, a minimum of 50% of State units had to be constituted.

Post the Lok Sabha polls, the process took some time, and on December 14, Mr. Nabin was named the national working president and endorsed by the parliamentary board of the party. It was a signal that he will be the only candidate for the president's post going ahead.

Call of inclusion and unity as RSS, Muslim leaders hold dialogue

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Senior leaders of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Muslim community held a dialogue in New Delhi on Friday in which speakers underlined the need for unity, inclusion and peace while discussing sensitive issues such as the politics of hatred and the role of fringe elements in society.

Organised by Khwaja Iftikhar Ahmed, founder of the Inter Faith Harmony Foundation of India, the dialogue session at India Islamic Cultural Centre was attended by RSS joint general secretary Krishna Gopal and the Sangh's outreach in-charge Ramlal.

The Muslim community was represented by former Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Najeeb Jung, former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi, retired Lieutenant-General Zameeruddin Shah, social activist and political analyst Shalini Ali, social worker Jasim Muhammad, NCPUL director Shams Iqbal, Major Muhammad Shah Ali, among others.

In his address, Mr. Jung expressed concern over a recent speech of National Security Adviser Ajit Doval in which he urged the youth in India to "avenge India's history". He raised the issue of denial of bail to activist Umar Khalid.

Lt. Gen. Zameeruddin Shah (retd.) also raised issues like social media, cinema and right-wing "hooliganism" as dangerous tools for spreading hatred against Muslims.

Mr. Krishna Gopal said that fringe elements are not the problem themselves, but symptoms of a deeper social illness. Instead of only confronting provocateurs, society must identify and cure the underlying causes.

Home Ministry calls Ladakhi leaders for talks on February 4

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has called the next round of meeting with civil society leaders of Ladakh on February 4.

The meeting of the high-powered committee, led by Minister of State for Home Affairs, is being held after a gap of three months. The last talks were held on October 22, 2025.

At the last meeting, the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), the two key constituents representing Leh and Kargil districts, respectively, were asked by officials to submit a draft framework for constitutional safeguards as being demanded by them.

The LAB and KDA are demanding inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, giving Ladakh a tribal status and Statehood, among others.

1.03 crore new workers join ESIC after reforms: Labour Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Labour Ministry said here on Friday that the Scheme to Promote Registration of Employers/Employees (SPREE) and other reforms in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) have extended the social security net to more than one crore workers.

Operational from July, 2025, the SPREE scheme offers a one-time opportunity for employers and employees who may have been inadvertently left out of the ESI scheme to register without concern for retrospective coverage or punitive action.

1.17 lakh new employers

"Until January 11, 2026, 1.17 lakh new employers and 1.03 crore new employees have registered under the scheme in the ESIC. The SPREE is operational for the period from July 1, 2025, to January 31, 2026," a Ministry official said.

The official added that owing to a series of reforms in the EPFO, a member can withdraw up to 75% of the balance, all of which became possible under simplified and liberalised provisions. "The balance of 25% will help in building a better retirement corpus for members," he said, adding that 47.48% of the total claims and 72.09% of the advance claims have been settled in auto mode after simplifying the processes.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (AGRIL.),
SOUTHERN ZONE, BRAHMAPUR, RITE CAMPUS, RANGEILUNDA, GANJAM
No. 66 Date. 16.01.2026
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) e-procurement notice
Bid identification number / Tender call notice no- SE (A) S/Z-06 of 2025-26
The Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmapur who has been authorized as the procuring officer for the projects of Southern Zone, Brahmapur is directed to invite percentage rate bid on behalf of the Governor of Odisha for the Civil construction works (including IE and PH works) under Southern Zone. The costs of the project are approximately 56 to 82 Lakhs (Excluding GST & LC). Bid document consisting of detailed tender call notice, the schedule of quantities and the set of terms and conditions of the contract and other necessary documents can be downloaded from **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** from **19.01.2026 at 11:00 hours to 03.02.2026 at 17:00 hours. The bid will be opened on 05.02.2026 at 15:00 hours** and onwards in the O/o Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmapur, RITE Campus, Rangeilunda. All other details regarding term and conditions, corrigendum from time to time if any, DTCN etc. can be seen and downloaded from **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.**
b-41 Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Brahmapur

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT
Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission,
Metros - CMRL Building, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai – 600 035.
Request for Bids (RFB) No. IN-TNSHORE-526853-CW-RFB
Title : Site Development and Basic Infrastructure Works for Biodiversity Conservation Park at Kadambur, Chengalpattu District, Tamil Nadu, India
The Chief Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission, Chennai requests for bids from eligible bidders for the aforesaid work. Bids are invited under National Open Competitive Procurement (NCP). The detailed Notice Inviting Bids and Bid Documents for the above work will be available on the website **www.tntenders.gov.in** from **17.01.2026** at **15.00 hours.** All relevant information and instructions to bidders are provided in the bid document.
1. The Pre-bid Meeting will be held at **11.30 hours** on **27.01.2026** at the **O/o. Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission, Chennai.**
2. Any addendum, corrigendum & clarification to the bidder's queries etc. will be published on the **www.tntenders.gov.in** website only.
Chief Mission Director,
Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission,
Chennai.
DIPR/ 281 /TENDER/2026

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
P.H. DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR, SAHID NAGAR, ODISHA
Phone / FAX :- 0674-2540578 (0) / e-Mail: eephiiibbsr@gmail.com
No.-286 /Dt. 12.01.2026
1st Corrigendum to Bid ID No. 68 of 2025-26 Dt.07.01.2026
The following amendments have been made to the NIT for the work **"Automation of water supply to Odagaon NAC (24x7 Water Supply),"**, vide tender identification No. **68 of 2025-26 Dt.07.01.2026** is detailed below.

Existing	May be read as follows
In Paragraph -1 of NIT :- Similar Type of Works (the contractor has successfully completed any one Automation of water supply - 24x7 work within last three years) .	**Similar Type of Works (the contractor must have successfully completed any one Automation of water supply - 24x7 work within last three years)**
Automation of water supply to Odagaon NAC (24x7 Water Supply). (NIT Col. No-2)	Automation of water supply to Odagaon NAC (24x7 Water Supply) including O & M for five years.
Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakh) (Apprx.) Rs. 414.25 Lakhs (NIT Col No-3)	**Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lakh) (Apprx.) Rs. 473.98 Lakhs**

All other terms and conditions of the remain unchanged.
C-2078: SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H.DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR.

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INBRIEF

3 hideouts busted in J&K as part of anti-terror operation

Three hideouts have been busted in Jammu's Kathua in an ongoing anti-terror operation in a forest area, the J&K Police said on Friday. A police spokesperson said two terrorist hideouts were busted by the joint teams of the security forces in Kalikhad and Kalaban areas of Billawar in Kathua. The recovery from these hideouts included two M4 empty cartridges, a cooking gas cylinder, cooking oil, charger wire, hand gloves, and other miscellaneous items. The first hideout was busted on January 7 following "reliable intelligence". During the operation, unknown terrorist(s) opened fire on the security forces, resulting in an exchange of fire, the police said.

Surat man records video of wife's self-immolation

A 31-year-old woman immolated herself at home in Surat over a marital dispute. The police said her husband recorded a video of the incident instead of trying to save her, following which a case was registered and he was arrested on Friday. The 33-year-old man, Ranjit Saha, was arrested on cruelty and abetment of suicide charges, they said. The woman was hospitalised on January 4, but died of her injuries on January 11. "After starting investigation, we found a clip in his mobile phone where he was recording his wife's self-immolation instead of saving her," said Inspector A.C. Gohil. PTI

Expert panel sets norms for religious sites in sanctuaries

The guidelines, which are still being deliberated upon by State governments, say that as a general principle, any construction on forest land after 1980 ought to be treated as encroachment

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

An apex expert body of the Environment Ministry, which decides on permitting infrastructure development within wildlife habitat, has brought out guidelines that specify conditions under which land inside wildlife parks or sanctuaries may be diverted for religious structures.

This follows a first-of-its-kind instance, when a proposal for land diversion within the Balaram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat, came up in early 2024. The sanctuary is host to, according to the State Government, "...two historical temples—Balaram and Ambaji—situated at the opposite corners of the sanctuary."

Rights in limbo: Forest officials say several sanctuaries across the country are yet to settle rights and claims. FILE PHOTO

Case in point

In July 2024, the body—Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) – had cleared a proposal by Pramukhshri Mukundpuriji Maharaj Seva Trust, Palanpur, Gujarat to "use" 0.35 hectares of forest land in the Balaram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary after Chief Wildlife Warden and the State Government approved the proposal, citing the existence of the "establishment" before the settlement of forest rights in the region.

However, in October 2024, the SCNBWL decided to revoke a clearance after one of its members, HS Singh, said that the right of the Trust on the land had not been recognised or recorded in the forest settlement report or any other government records. Mr. Singh warned that this being the first instance of sanctuary land being considered for allotment to a religious institution, it could set a precedent for similar demands for protected area land.

He requested the Committee to reconsider its recommendation.

During deliberations, the Inspector General of Forests noted there were several such sanctuaries across the country where rights and claims had not been settled. Following this, the Chairman of the Committee (Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav) said there were sacred caves and religious places inside forests and wildlife areas mentioned in religious texts. The followers, he said, had decided to develop these areas as a matter of faith and, therefore, an SOP be formulated for submission of applications to the Committee involving religious institutions. He suggested a panel comprising Dr. H. S. Singh and Dr. R. Sukumar may be formed for that purpose.

Rules for construction

These guidelines—though still being deliberated upon by State Governments—say that as a general principle, any construction or expansion on forest land after 1980 ought to be treated as "encroachment." A summary of the guidelines was presented before the SCNBWL in its December 2025 meeting, the meeting records note.

However, in exceptional cases where the State has issued a reasoned and documented order justifying proposed regularisation, such cases could be referred to the Ministry for further consideration on a case-by-case basis.

Secretary-General of RS has administrative role only, says court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The 'draft decision' said the MPs did not use 'proper' terms, and quoted a wrong provision of law

The Supreme Court on Friday raised concerns about the Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha, who went far beyond the confines of a purely administrative role to prepare a "draft decision" concluding that the notice of motion given by Rajya Sabha members for removal of Justice Yashwant Varma was inadmissible. The top court said it "would be just and proper if the Secretariat exercises restraint" in such matters.

The eventual rejection of the MPs' notice of motion by the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman was based on the conclusions arrived at by the Secretary-General that not all was "in order".

A Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and S.C. Sharma said the Secretary-General had only an administrative role and did not extend to assuming quasi-adjudicatory functions.

In the judgment, the court expressed hope that next time a judge faced removal, the Secretariat would leave it to the Lok Sabha Speaker or the Rajya Sabha Chairman, as the case may be, to decide on the admission of the motion. "We do hope that no other judge faces proceedings for his removal from service on allegations of misbehaviour. Should, at all, there be an unfortunate recurrence of a judge *prima facie* indulging in misbehaviour and the representatives of the people of the nation demand an investigation... It would be just and proper if the Secretariat exercises restraint and leaves it to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, as the case may be, to decide the question of admission of a motion instead of concluding as to what should be the future course of action," Justice Datta wrote in the judgment.

In the present case, the draft decision of the Secretary-General had concluded that the MPs did not use "proper terms" in their notice of removal motion, did not furnish "authenticated documents to support material facts", and presented incorrect facts and quoted a wrong provision of law.

Congress slams Manikarnika Ghat redevelopment, alleges damage to Varanasi heritage

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday accused the Uttar Pradesh government of "completely destroying" the heritage of Varanasi through the ongoing redevelopment of the Manikarnika Ghat, and demanded that all work be stopped immediately and resumed only after consultations with religious leaders.

Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai alleged that the "Yogi-Modi government" claims to uphold Hindutva but is, in reality, "completely atheistic".

Ajay Rai

"Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone in 2023 for the beautification of Manikarnika Ghat but he has completely destroyed the Ghat in the name of beautification," Mr. Rai said at a press conference at the party headquarters along with party colleague Abhay Dubey.

Manikarnika Ghat is among the oldest and most sacred cremation grounds in Hinduism.

Damage to idol

The redevelopment project has triggered protests against a demolition drive at the ghat, with demonstrators alleging damage to a century-old idol of Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar. The district administration has denied the charge. District Magistrate Satyendra Kumar said on Wednesday that the artefacts had been "secured" by the culture department and would be reinstalled in their original form after the work was completed.

He said the revamp aimed to improve sanitation and space management at the ghat, which witnesses a large number of cremations daily.

The U.P. Congress chief also accused the BJP government of undertaking commercial construction in religious spaces.

"The BJP government has built a mall in the name of a corridor in Baba Vishwanath's 'darbar'. Thousands of years-old temples were demolished and the Akshayavat tree was cut down and completely destroyed to build the mall," Mr. Rai alleged.

Seeds Bill aimed at protecting rights of farmers, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indicating that the draft Seeds Bill is likely to be tabled in Parliament during the coming Budget Session, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday said it was a historic piece of legislation aimed at ensuring farmers' protection, seed quality, and transparency across the system.

"We have tried to create a system through which it can be known where the seed was produced, which dealer supplied it and who sold it," he told pressperson here. He said every seed packet would carry a QR code which, when scanned, would allow farmers to access complete information about its origin. "This will not only prevent the sale of fake or substandard seeds, but will also enable swift action against those responsible if such seeds enter the market," Mr. Chouhan said.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan

He said that once the Bill is passed, inferior seeds would not enter the system, and even if they did, they would be identified. "Those who supply such seeds will be penalised," he said, adding that penalty provisions under the new Bill were much more stringent. He said the new law would not impose any restrictions on traditional seeds used by farmers.

Five booked, expelled for assaulting Assamese student at Central university in M.P.

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Five students of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) at Anuppur in Madhya Pradesh have been booked for allegedly assaulting an Assamese student on campus, the police said on Friday. The five students were also expelled from the Central university on January 14.

Hirosh Jyoti Das, 22, pursuing master's in economics, was allegedly brutally assaulted inside a hostel around 4 a.m. on January 13, by five students who arrived in his room in a drunken state. Mr. Das, who hails from Sonitpur district in Assam, suffered a broken nose and injuries near his eyes and other parts of his body.

An FIR was registered on January 14 against Anurag Pandey, Jatin Singh, Rajnish Tripathi, Vishal Yadav, and Utkarsh Singh, all undergraduate students of different courses, based on a complaint from Mr. Das. The accused have been booked under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Sections 296, 115(2), 351(3), and 3(5), according to Anuppur Superintendent of Police Moti Ur Rahman.

'No racism complaint'

Mr. Rahman, however, denied that any racial slurs were made by the accused. "The victim has also not mentioned any such thing in his complaint. There are about 25 students from northeastern States at the IGNTU and no complaint about racism has ever been received," he told *The Hindu*. "That day, the accused boys barged into the victim's room as some of them used to live in that room in the past. The accused were drunk and an argument broke out between them, after which they assaulted Mr. Das," the SP said, adding that a probe is under way.

Meanwhile, the IGNTU administration expelled the five accused students based on recommendations from a nine-member internal probe committee. The accused students have been given 15 days to file their replies.

Mr. Das has also issued a video statement expressing fear for his life and relating the incident to the brutal murder of Anjel Chakma, a 24-year-old MBA student from Tripura, in a racial attack in Uttarakhand last month.

"I am scared. Who will protect me if those people attack me again? I don't want to die here the way a Tripura boy was murdered in Dehradun," Mr. Das said.

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(set by VMA Nair)

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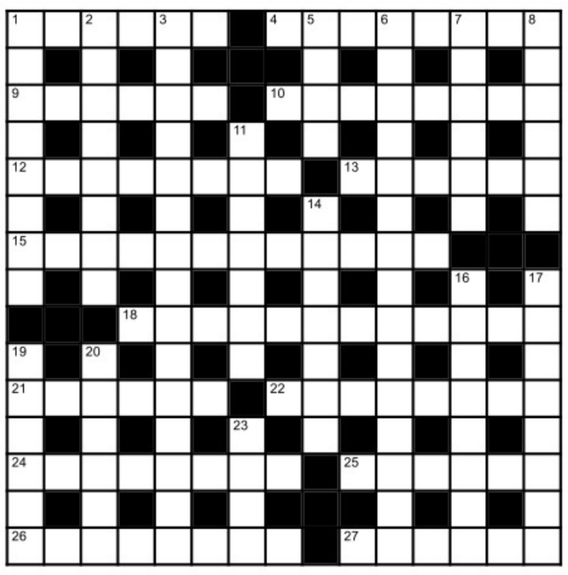
SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Employee breaks case of salty drink made of beer and lemonade (6)
4 Attendant's husband and new child introduced to retired celebrity (8)
9 South-eastern state backing small organizations (6)
10 Suspend professional villain (8)
12 Complain to Saint John about arrangements between automobile owners (3,5)
13 Ancestral home bordered by grassland close to capital (6)
15 Cafe owner and others retrospectively regret limiting quality time (12)
18 Delivery director is selflessly training kid inside (12)
21 Grab a brood of chickens (6)
22 City girl gave faulty plugs (3,5)
24 After an exclamation of disbelief, setter cracks exam in class (8)
25 Some famous Tanzanian verse (6)
26 Old post office gets positive publicity (8)
27 Covered vacant Vietnamese food shop counter (6)

Down

1 Part of window crashed so badly after striking base (4,4)
2 Spymaster is knowingly concealing star shaped mark (8)
3 Trump ultimately sharing funny old comic strip featuring American embassy staff (10,5)
5 Make betatron regularly (4)
6 Personal account? (10,5)
7 Lure Mossad's top agent somehow (6)
8 Want endless support for pointer (6)
11 Plainness of Tripoli, for example, overwhelming Libya (7)
14 Just fasten hinges around this almost entirely (7)
16 Cross second round target without trace of nervousness (8)
17 Aunt's kid excitedly leaving university after getting a little narrow tray for holding pens (8)
19 Tool for cutting piece of some extremely costly article (6)
20 Brawl in elevated place near subway (4-2)
23 Reasonable price, so it's said (4)

SUDOKU

	4				1	6		
2	6				5			
9							3	1
				8	2			
		5	1		6	9		
			7	9				
5	8							3
			2				4	9
		9	4				8	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6763 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	4	9	2	3	5	1	7	6
1	6	5	7	9	4	2	8	3
7	2	3	6	1	8	5	9	4
6	8	1	5	2	7	3	4	9
3	7	2	9	4	6	8	1	5
5	9	4	1	8	3	7	6	2
9	3	8	4	5	1	6	2	7
4	5	7	8	6	2	9	3	1
2	1	6	3	7	9	4	5	8

FAITH

Nothing is useless

Nothing in God's creation is useless, said Akkarakkani Srinidhi, in a discourse. Because of our arrogance, we think that we are superior to others. A student came to a sage for lessons. The student was very proud to study under such a great scholar. When his gurukulavasam ended, he asked his guru what he should offer as guru dakshina. The guru knew of his student's pride. He said to the student, "Bring me something that is absolutely useless."

The student went in search of something useless. He decided to offer his guru a fistful of mud. But the mud spoke to him! "Am I not responsible for all the beautiful things you see on this earth? Things that are fragrant, tasty, flavourful – none of them can exist without me. How did you come to the conclusion that I am useless?"

He then decided to pick up some clay. Surely such mushy soil had to be useless, he told himself. "Stop," said the clayey soil. "Have you ever noticed the soil in a rice field? You will find that it is kept slushy, because this is good for rice cultivation. Now tell me, am I useless?"

The student came to the conclusion that God created with a purpose. He realised that the only useless things in this world were ego and pride. He went back to his guru empty-handed. The guru had anticipated this, and when the remorseful student fell at his feet, he told him never to think of anything as useless, because everything had been created by Bhagavan. The Supreme One who creates is great – Purusham Mahantham, as the Vedas say. He is present in everything, and therefore nothing in the world should be treated disrespectfully. If we surrender to him without pride and arrogance, moksha can be attained.

INBRIEF

Federal Bank Q3 net up 9% on non-interest income growth

Federal Bank on Friday reported a 9% jump in net profit in the December quarter to ₹1,041 crore, helped by a growth in non-interest income. The Kerala-headquartered bank had earned a net profit of ₹955 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Its core net interest income rose 9% to ₹2,653 crore, an all-time high, on the back of a 9% loan growth and a 0.07% expansion in the net interest margin to 3.18%. Non-interest income grew 20% to ₹1,100 crore. PTI

Maruti Suzuki starts export of Victoris sport utility vehicle

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. has started shipping its premium SUV, Victoris, for exports. Over 450 vehicles have set sail from Mundra and Pipavav ports in Gujarat for global markets. The SUV will be globally sold as 'Across'. The SUV has demonstrated global safety credentials, earning a 5-star safety rating in both Global NCAP and Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme). Hisashi Takeuchi, MD & CEO, Maruti Suzuki, said. "Our export journey is guided by the vision of Make in India, Make for the World. In calendar year 2025, with exports of over 3.9 lakh vehicles, we emerged as India's number one passenger vehicle exporter for the fifth year in a row".

ISMA suggests measures for the promotion of biofuel

The Indian Sugar and Bio-energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) has urged the Government to take up comprehensive GST rationalisation and targeted policy support across the biofuel and clean mobility ecosystem. The Association suggested measures so that the sugar sector can become a multi-vertical, bio-energy hub. The government should rationalise GST on flex-fuel vehicles and hybrids, positioning them alongside EVs as a mainstream solution. It should incentivise advanced biofuels, including SAF, green hydrogen, and Isobutanol, said Deepak Ballani, director general, ISMA. Ethanol-related machinery must be brought under 5% duty.

Reliance Q3 net grows a tad to ₹18,645 crore on oil, retail units

The oil and gas segment's quarterly EBITDA slid 12.7% to ₹4,857 crore on lower revenue and higher operating cost due to maintenance. JioStar reported a revenue of ₹8,010 crore with an EBITDA of ₹1,303 crore; net debt marginally down

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Consolidated net profit attributable to the owners of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) grew marginally in the third quarter ended December 31, 2025 to ₹18,645 crore owing to the impact from upstream and retail businesses.

Consolidated revenue at ₹2,93,829 cr. was up 10% year-on-year (YoY), supported by strong revenue growth across businesses.

"The performance reflects consistent financial delivery and operational resilience across businesses," said Mukesh D. Ambani, CMD, RIL.

"Robust growth in O2C business was led by significantly higher fuel margins with favourable demand-supply dynamics, along with operational flexibility. I am happy to highlight the strong growth in our fuel retailing business, with continuing expansion of the Jio-bp network. Upstream segment EBITDA was impacted by lower volumes and prices," he said.

Slippery wicket: Oil & gas revenue was lower by 8.4% at ₹5,833 crore on lower volumes, price realisation for KGD6 gas. REUTERS

RIL's consolidated net debt as of December 31, 2025 was marginally down at ₹1,17,102 crore against ₹1,18,545 crore as on September, 30, 2025.

Digital Services revenue under Jio Platforms Ltd. at ₹43,683 crore grew 12.7% YoY, with accelerated subscriber addition. Jio's net profit for the quarter grew 11.2% to ₹7,629 crore.

Reliance Retail

Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. delivered a revenue of ₹97,605 crore, up 8.1%.

But net profit rose only 2.7% to ₹3,551 crore. The firm said growth was impacted due to GST rationalisation, festive demand split between Q2 and Q3 and the demerger of consumer products business.

Oil to Chemicals (O2C) segment revenue for the quarter was up 8.4% to ₹1,62,095 crore. Production meant for sale rose 1.7% on a YoY basis.

The O2C segment EBITDA climbed 14.6% to ₹16,507 crore on a sharp rise in transportation fuel cracks and higher sulphur realisation partially offset by weakness in downstream chemical margins and higher feedstock freight rates.

The Oil & Gas segment revenue was lower by 8.4% YoY at ₹5,833 crore mainly on account of lower volumes and price realisation for KGD6 gas and condensate. This segment's quarterly EBITDA slid 12.7% to ₹4,857 crore on lower revenue and higher operating cost due to maintenance. JioStar reported a revenue of ₹8,010 crore with an EBITDA of ₹1,303 crore.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,570	0.23
US Dollar	90.78	-----
Brent oil	64.54	-----

NIFTY 50

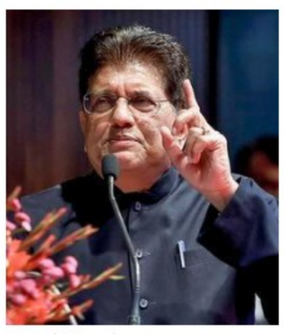
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2157.30	4.00
Adani Ports	1421.90	-8.10
Apollo Hosp	7235.50	-37.00
Asian Paints	2756.90	-57.00
Axis Bank	1294.20	-4.60
Bajaj Auto	9489.00	-90.50
Bajaj Finserv	2002.50	1.60
Bajaj Finance	950.25	4.30
Bharat Elec	410.25	-7.35
Bharti Airtel	2016.40	-6.10
Cipla	1397.50	-37.00
Coal India	431.00	-1.20
Dr Reddys Lab	1175.50	-11.00
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7315.00	-43.00
Eternal Ltd.	287.70	-11.55
Grasim Ind	2809.60	13.80
HCL Tech	1698.00	29.50
HDFC Bank	931.10	5.65
HDFC Life	732.55	-10.65
Hindalco	934.65	-20.70
Hind Unilever	2360.40	6.90
ICICI Bank	1410.80	-7.60
IntGlobeAvi	4740.00	7.00
Infosys	1689.80	90.00
ITC	329.20	-5.55
Jio Financial Servic-es Ltd.	278.80	-8.20
JSW Steel	1187.30	5.50
Kotak Bank	418.20	-2.80
L&T	3856.40	-9.40
M&M	3658.20	8.70
Maruti Suzuki	15859.00	-293.00
Max Healthcare	1037.00	3.40
NestleIndia	1315.90	8.80
NTPC	346.35	-2.75
ONGC	247.17	-1.06
PowerGrid Corp	257.30	-1.05
Reliance Ind	1457.90	-0.90
SBI Life	2081.00	12.20
State Bank	1042.30	13.95
Shriram Finance Ltd.	995.45	14.35
Sun Pharma	1668.90	-31.80
TataConsumerPro-duct	1189.10	17.70
Tata Steel	188.21	-1.04
TCS	3206.70	14.20
Tech Mahindra	1670.50	82.00
Titan	4196.90	-24.60
Tata Motors PV	353.60	3.80
Trent Ltd.	3899.70	-32.50
UltraTech Cement	12378.00	123.00
Wipro	267.45	7.25

India-EU free trade pact will be 'mother of all deals:' Goyal

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU) will be the "mother of all deals" when compared with the seven deals India has signed with "developed" countries, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said.

He did not, however, confirm or deny the January 27 deadline for the deal. Since 2014, India has signed trade deals with the U.K., Mauritius, the U.A.E., the four EFTA countries (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein),


Piyush Goyal

and Oman, apart from an early harvest deal with Australia.

"I have done seven FTAs so far, all with developed countries," Mr. Goyal told reporters.

"This one will be the mother of all deals."

The Minister said the deal is a win-win for India and the EU.

'Super deal'

"For the sectors that we are interested in, we are getting a super deal," Mr. Goyal said. "And on the sectors that they are interested in, we are giving them a super deal. It has to be win-win for both. The good part is that we don't compete with each other. Our interests are different."

He, however, added that he did not want to specify a deadline for the deal.

LTIMindtree bags ₹3,000-cr. CBDT deal

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

LTI Mindtree will build AI-based prog. for modernisation of the national tax analytics platform

IT company LTIMindtree said it has bagged a ₹3,000-crore contract from the Central Board of Direct Taxes to build an AI-based programme for the modernisation of India's national tax analytics platform.

The deal is spread over a period of seven years.

Seven-year mandate

"LTIMindtree has been awarded the Insight 2.0 project from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to build an AI-powered programme for the modernisation of India's national tax analytics platform. Valued at around ₹3,000 crore, this seven-year mandate reinforces LTIMindtree's leadership in enabling digital transformation," the company said in a statement.

The platform aims at providing real-time insights to policymakers.

Central Bank Q3 net up 32% to ₹1,263 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Central Bank of India for the third quarter ended 31 December 2025 reported a 32% year-on-year growth in net profit to ₹1,263 crore. Net Interest Income (NII) declined 1.07% to ₹3,502 crore.

Wipro Q3 net declines 7% on labour code, to pay ₹6 interim

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Wipro Ltd. presented mixed performance during the third quarter of FY26 characterised by a dip in net profit on one-time labour code implementation cost impact of more than ₹300 crore and a single-digit growth in revenue.

In Q3, the company reported a 7% year-on-year dip in net profit to ₹3,119 crore. Revenue rose 5.5% to ₹23,556 crore. IT services segment revenue grew $2,635.4 million, an increase of 1.2% QoQ and 0.2%YoY. Wipro also reported total deals booking

A man walks past Wipro's logo.

worth $3.3 billion in Q3.

Srini Pallia, CEO and MD, Wipro, said growth was broad-based in the quarter which was marked by two milestones: Wipro turned 80 and its stock market listing a quarter-century-old. The board declared interim dividend of ₹6 a share, said CFO Aparna Iyer.

On revenue guidance, Wipro said it expected revenue from IT services to be in the range of $2,635 million to $2,688 million by March 31, 2026. This translates to sequential guidance of 0% to 2.0% in constant currency terms.

Wipro on boarded over 5,000 freshers so far, in FY26 against a target of 10,000. As on December 31, 2025, Wipro had 2,42,021 employees, a net addition of 6,529. Utilisation was 83.1% while attrition stood at 14.2%.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 11/2025-26/ KWA/PHC/ TVLA ,12/2025-26/ KWA/PHC/ TVLA **1)**JJM - 5th SWSM : WSS to Mylapra, Malayalappuzha and Vadasserikkara Panchayaths - Design and Construction of 6m dia intake well cum Pumphouse and Raw Water Pumping Main at Maniyar. **2)**JJM- WSS to Pramadam And V.Kottayam Villages in Pathanamthitta District - Distribution System -7 MLD WTP at Kulappara, 10 LL OHSR, CWPM from Sump to OH tank, Pumpset. CWPM, 2.5LL and 3LL OHSR, at Nedumpara and Padappupara, 5LL Sump cum Pumphouse at Kochumala and 9m dia Intake well cum Pumphouse, RWPM, Pumpset, transformer room and transformer. **EMD :** Rs. 200000,500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 13010, 19518 **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 03-02-2026 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 04692600162
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-615-2025-26 PH Circle, Pathanamthitta

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LTD.
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids for various works under the Superintending Engineer (T&C), Bikaner are invited from interested bidders' as per the details provided in the Bidding documents. For other particulars of the bid's the bidders may be visited on the websites **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** of the state, and **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn/** departmental website. Extension of date of opening/correction if any will be intimated through above websites in future.
UBN No.- VPN2526WSOB02573, VPN2526WSOB02574, VPN2526SSOB02575 Superintending Engineer
Raj.Samwad/C/25/17668 RRVPN/TR-7344/2026 (T & C), Bikaner

KMML The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam,-691583
Phone : +91-476-2651215 to 217, E-mail : md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details, please visit E- Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in.or www.kmml.com

No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2026_KMML_827546_1	Supply of PANEL MOUNTED INLETS CONNECTOR WITH PROTECTIVE CAPS 200A PANEL MOUNTED INLET 125A & INDUSTRIAL PLUG TOP 125 AMPS/5 PIN
2.	2026_KMML_827020_1	Trimethylol Ethane (TRIMET) - 197 MT
3.	2026_KMML_828227_1	Supply of Slotting Machine
4.	2026_KMML_828274_1	Supply of Wooden Pallets-Domestic quality-25844 Nos

Chavara. 16.01.2026 Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
CIN: U60100KA2000SGC028171
No. KRIDE/HR/195/Vacancy Notification/02/2026 Date: 16.01.2026
VACANCY NOTICE
K-RIDE, a JV of Govt of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways, executing the **BANGALORE SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT & RAILWAY DOUBLING PROJECTS,** invites applications for the following posts on Deputation/Contract basis.

Vacancy Notice No.	Name of the post	No.of Posts	Grade
05/2026	General Manager (Civil)	04	E8
06/2026	General Manager (Signalling & Telecommunication)	01	E8
07/2026	Jt. General Manager (Rolling Stock)	01	E6
08/2026	Sr. DGM / DGM / Sr. Manager (Design)	01	E5/E4/ E3
09/2026	Manager / Dy. Manager (DM) (Design)	02	E2/E1

Last date for submitting applications is **16.02.2026.**
For detailed eligibility conditions and other details please visit: **https://kride.in/careers-in-k-ride/.**
DIPR/CP/5052/Zen/2025-26 Sd/- **GENERAL MANAGER /HR (I/c)**
KridePrm Kride Bsrp kride_bsrp KRIDE,BSRP

Punjab State Grains Procurement Corporation limited (PUNGRAIN) Anaaj Bhawan, Sector- 39, Chandigarh
Email: foodpurchase.fcs@punjab.gov.in
Notice
E-Tender for the purchase of 50 Kg capacity High Density Polyethene (HOPE)/ Polypropylene (PP) Woven Sacks
Pungrain invites online tender through GeM Portal under two-bid system for supply of purchase of 50 Kg capacity High Density Polyethene (HOPE)/ Polypropylene (PP) Woven Sacks as per IS 14887:2014 amendment till date.
The bid/tender document and other details are available on the GeM Portal i.e. https://gem.gov.in and http://foodsuppb.gov.in.
Bid Submission Start Date and Time: From 11:00 AM on 16.01.2026
Bid Submission last Date and Time: Till 10:00 AM on 06.02.2026
Note: Pungrain reserves the right to scrap the tender at any stage without assigning any reason and Pungrain will not be held liable for any cost and consequences incurred by the intending bidders.
Any corrigendum/ addendum will be uploaded on GeM portal.
1027/12/2025-26/7152 **Managing Director Pungrain**

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NITTE
LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE
Thank You
to all our readers for enthusiastically participating in the Literary Trivia Challenge.
Answers for Jan 14 quiz:
1. Kannadasan Pathippagam
2. The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
3. Peter Pan
Winners of Jan 14 quiz:
1. Akshat Jain, Faridabad
2. Sahil.D, Agra
3. Sanchita Maji, Goa
Clarification:
Due to an inadvertent error, the answers and winners for January 14, published on January 15 were incorrect. The correct details are published as above.

AI, SIA sign deal to offer air travellers more routes

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India (AI) has signed a cooperation framework agreement with joint-venture partner Singapore Airlines (SIA), signalling a deepening of ties that will deliver expanded route options, synchronised flight timings and smoother connections for passengers.

The agreement was signed in Mumbai on Friday between AI CEO and MD Campbell Wilson, and SIA chief executive officer Goh Choon Phong.

TechM's Q3 net profit up 14% to ₹1,122 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tech Mahindra, the technology arm of Mahindra Group, reported a 14% year-on-year increase in its third quarter net profit to ₹1,122 crore, aided by strong margin expansion.

The quarter also saw its revenue increasing to ₹14,393 crore or by 8.3% year-on-year.

Operating performance improved sharply in the quarter with EBIT rising 40.1% to ₹1,892 crore, while EBIT margin expanded to 13.1%. The firm also incurred a one-time labour code cost of ₹272 crore and saw lower tax expenses. Mohit Joshi, CEO and MD, told the media, deal wins on last 12 months basis were the highest it had seen in the last five years.

"The momentum is a testament to sustained investments in sales, solution-oriented go-to-market approach and the growing relevance of AI-led offerings in addressing client needs. These efforts are laying a strong foundation for long-term value creation," he added.

TechM posted new deal wins worth $1.1 billion in Q3, a rise of 47%.

WASHINGTON

Trump threatens tariffs on nations that don't back plan on Greenland

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday he may impose trade tariffs on countries that don't support his plans to take over Greenland, part of the territory of NATO ally Denmark. "I may put a tariff on countries if they don't go along with Greenland, because we need Greenland for national security," Mr. Trump said. AFP

AL MUGHAYYIR

Israeli forces kill 14-year-old boy in latest clashes in West Bank village

AFP

Israeli forces killed a 14-year-old Palestinian, identified as Mohammed al-Nassan, in the occupied West Bank village of Al-Mughayyir on Friday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The military said dozens of Palestinians were throwing stones upon their arrival, including one who posed "an imminent threat". AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pak. appoints Achakzai as Leader of Opposition in National Assembly

AP

Pakistan authorities on Friday appointed veteran Pashtun tribal politician Mehmood Khan Achakzai as the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly. The post was lying vacant since August last year after Omar Ayub Khan of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) was disqualified after conviction in a case of vandalism. PTI

WASHINGTON

CIA chief met Venezuela interim leader in Caracas, says U.S. official

AP

U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) head John Ratcliffe travelled to Venezuela and met leader Delcy Rodriguez, a U.S. administration official said on Friday, in the highest-level American visit since the fall of Nicolas Maduro. The official added that they "discussed potential opportunities for economic collaboration". AFP

Uneasy calm in Iran as protests ebb; U.S. says 'all options still on the table'

Norway-based group reports that at least 3,428 protesters were killed; a Saudi official says Gulf allies have persuaded U.S. President Donald Trump to give the Iranian leadership a 'chance'; White House says Iran halted execution of protesters

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

The protest movement in Iran has subsided after a crackdown that has killed thousands under an Internet blackout, monitors said on Friday, one week after the start of the biggest protests in years challenging the Islamic republic's theocratic system.

The threat of new military action by the United States against Iran has also appeared to have receded for the time being, with a Saudi official saying Gulf allies have persuaded President Donald Trump to give the Iranian leadership a "chance".

Opposing voices: Commuters drive under a banner that reads 'This is not a protest' in Tehran on Thursday. AFP

Protests sparked by economic grievances started with a shutdown in the Tehran bazaar on December 28 but turned into a mass movement demanding the removal of the clerical system that has ruled Iran since the 1979 revolution.

People started pouring into the streets in big cities from January 8 but authorities immediately enforced a shutdown of the Internet that has lasted over a week and activists say is aimed at masking the scale of the crackdown.

The repression has "likely suppressed the protest movement for now", said the U.S.-based Institute for the Study of War, which has monitored the protest activity.

But it added: "The regime's widespread mobilisation of security forces is unsustainable, however, which makes it possible that protests could resume."

Norway-based rights group Iran Human Rights (IHR) says 3,428 protesters have been verified to have been killed by security forces, but warns this could be a fraction of the actual toll.

Its director Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam said authorities under supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have "committed one of the gravest crimes of our time".

While Washington appeared to have stepped back, the White House said on Thursday that "all options remain on the table for the President".

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt added that "the President understands today that 800 executions that were scheduled and supposed to take place yesterday were halted".

Wary of instability, Riyadh opposes U.S. strike on Iran

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

For years, rivalry between Saudi Arabia, a Sunni monarchy, and Iran, a Shia theocracy, had been a defining feature of West Asian geopolitics. From Lebanon and Syria to Iraq and Yemen, the two backed opposing sides, with Iran supporting Shia militias and Saudi Arabia Sunni factions.

Yet, when Iran was rocked by mass protests over the past two weeks, Riyadh was conspicuously silent. And when U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to bomb Iran over its crackdown on demonstrators, Riyadh told Tehran it would not allow its air space or territory to be used for such an attack, *AFP* reported.

According to Gulf and American officials, Saudi Arabia, along with Qatar, Oman and Turkiye, lobbied the Trump administration against military action.

Why did Riyadh oppose an American strike on a country it had, until recently, regarded as its principal rival in West Asia?

Irate public: Cars being burnt during a nationwide protest in Tehran last week. REUTERS

Fear of instability

Three broad reasons stand out.

First, the Saudis appear wary of the narrative that external military punishment is justified as a response to internal repression. Despite their sectarian divide and geopolitical rivalry, both Saudi Arabia and Iran are governed by authoritarian systems.

If Iran can be "liberated" through an external attack, critics could invoke the same logic against the kingdom should it ever drift away from the U.S. orbit in West Asia.

What makes Iran a target and Saudi Arabia not is not a qualitative difference in governance models, but two other factors. One, Saudi Arabia can trade, invest, accept investments freely and broadly meet the economic needs of its population, while Iran faces a severe economic crisis largely due to sanctions. Two, Saudi Arabia is an American ally that hosts U.S. troops; Iran, by contrast, is viewed as an adversary in Washington and Tel Aviv.

Second, having seen the chaos external interventions brought to countries like Iraq and Libya, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries are wary of an invasion in Iran, which they fear could plunge the country of over 90 million into anarchy and instability. It could send tens of thousands of refugees to neighbouring countries.

The Israel factor

Lastly, and more important, geopolitics.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf monarchies have grown increasingly alarmed by Israel's behaviour over the past two years. Since October 7, 2023, Israel has bombed at least six countries. Hezbollah, the Iran-backed Lebanese Shia militia, has been degraded. In Syria, the pro-Iran regime of President Bashar al-Assad collapsed.

Emboldened by these developments, Israel, with the backing of the U.S., bombed Iran in June. In September, Israel struck Qatar, another American ally, in a failed bid to assassinate Hamas's political leadership -which was seen as a breach of the red line by Arab kingdoms.

Shift in power

If the Islamic Republic of Iran were to fall, the regional balance of power would decisively shift in favour of Israel, enabling it to pursue dominance across West Asia.

Saudi Arabia, concerned about the U.S.'s shrinking security umbrella and Israel's aggression, has already started diversifying its strategic options. Last year, it forged a security partnership with nuclear-armed Pakistan. It is also seeking to build closer strategic ties with Turkiye, a former adversary, Qatar, on which Riyadh imposed a blockade in 2017, and Egypt.

So the kingdom doesn't want a violent collapse of Iran's republic – an outcome that could plunge the country into chaos, deepen regional instability which could have domestic consequences and leave Israel more powerful which could pose long-term security threats.

Trump threatens to invoke Insurrection Act over protests

Agence France-Presse
MINNEAPOLIS

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday threatened to invoke an emergency law that allows the domestic deployment of the military, after federal agents killed one person and injured another in Minnesota, sparking mass protests.

Protesters have denounced the aggressive tactics of Mr. Trump's broad-reaching immigration raids in rallies in the Midwestern city, which is a Democratic stronghold.

Donald Trump

Federal agents fired their weapons in two separate incidents, wounding a man from Venezuela Wednesday and killing an American woman last week.

The Insurrection Act allows a President sidestep the Posse Comitatus Act to suppress "armed rebellion" or "domestic violence" and use the armed forces "as he considers necessary" to enforce the 19th century law.

"If the corrupt politicians of Minnesota don't obey the law and stop the professional agitators and insurrectionists from attacking the Patriots of ICE, who are only trying to do their job, I will institute the INSURRECTION ACT," Mr. Trump warned on Truth Social.

U.S., Taiwan reach trade deal focused on semiconductors

Reuters
WASHINGTON

The U.S. and Taiwan clinched a trade deal on Thursday that cuts tariffs on many of the semiconductor powerhouse's exports, directs new investments in the U.S. technology industry and risks infuriating China.

The deal deepens the Trump administration's ties with Taipei at a critical time as China ratchets up pressure on the island and Washington has worked to avoid an all-out trade war with Beijing. Under the long-negotiated deal, Taiwanese chipmakers like TSMC that expand U.S. production will get a lower tax rate for semiconductors they import into U.S.

The U.S. will also lower a set of broad tariffs that apply to most other Taiwanese exports to the U.S. from 20% to 15%. Generic pharmaceuticals, aircraft components and "unavailable natural resources" will face a 0% tariff, Commerce Department said.

Sport

Lakshya bows out, Indian challenge comes to an end

INDIA OPEN SUPER 750

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Lakshya Sen paid the price for inconsistency and inability to control the shuttle as well as the pace of the match and bowed out of the India Open Super 750 event on Friday, bringing an end to the home challenge.

Lakshya lost 17-21, 13-21, 18-21 to Taiwan's Chun-Yi Lin in the quarterfinals – his fourth loss in as many face-offs, including the 2025 edition here.

The Indian had a shaky start and kept hitting wide, unable to counter the drift. When he found his rhythm, he started taking the pace off at the net and avoiding going too deep. That helped him take the first game. However, the Taiwanese upped the ante in the second game with quick returns, controlling the points with a mix of powerful smashes and delicate drops at the net. He reeled off nine straight points to move from 2-5 to 11-5, not giving Lakshya a chance. Despite the third game being close and Lakshya taking three-point leads twice, Lin was never in trouble. Once he nosed ahead, he sealed the contest at the first opportunity. He will take on Canadia's Victor Lai next.

Not a good day: An inconsistent display ended Lakshya's campaign. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

World No. 2 Kunlavut Vitidsarn fell to Loh Kean Yew in three games, the Singaporean tasting only his second success in their 10 meetings, the previous one dating back to 2015.

Loh's reward will be a clash against Indonesian Jonatan Christie, another player he has never defeated on the World Tour in eight previous attempts.

In the women's section, Korean World No. 1 An Se Young continued her march with a 21-16, 21-8 win over Putra Kusuma Wardani. She will take on Ratchanok Intanon in a repeat of their semifinal here last year, seeking her 13th win in 14 matches. Zhi Yi Wang and Chen Yu Fei will face off in an all-Chinese clash in the other semifinal.

Important results:

Friday: Quarterfinal: Men: Chun-Yi Lin (Tpe) bt Lakshya Sen 17-21, 21-13, 21-18.

Thursday: Second round:

Men: Lakshya bt Kenta Nishimoto (Jpn) 21-19, 21-10; Christo Popov (Fra) bt K. Srikanth 21-14, 17-21, 21-17; Loh Kean Yew (Sin) bt H.S. Prannoy 18-21, 21-19, 21-14.

Doubles: Wei Keng Liang & Chang Wang (Chn) bt Hariharan Amsakarunan & M.R. Arjun 21-15, 21-15; Hiroki Midorikawa & Kyohei Yamashita (Jpn) bt Chirag Shetty & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy 25-27, 23-21, 21-19.

Women: Yue Han (Chn) bt Malvika Bansod 21-18, 21-15.

Doubles: Yi Jing Li & Xu Min Luo (Chn) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 20-22, 24-22, 23-21.

Could have been more clinical, says Lakshya

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

A disappointed Lakshya Sen admitted he could have been more clinical after going down in three games to Chun-Yi Lin, his fourth loss in as many meetings with the Taiwanese.

"It was a very close match, I could have been a little more clinical towards the end but credit to him," a visibly despondent Lakshya said. "He's a good player and he was playing well today. I think the third game was much more of a pressure situation with both trying to keep the attack and it was important for me to finish off early," he added.

Asked about the conditions, he admitted he was not prepared for the extreme drift. "I think I was not prepared for the wind today, it was a lot more than yesterday and it took me some time to realise. I was a bit shaky from the net to lift the shuttle and made too many errors at the net. But I could figure it out in the third and not give so many easy points," he explained.

Lakshya also agreed that the court played a role. "It was a bit faster and I had to control better. From where I started, I could play freely with the lifts and I think he was doing the same. I tried being more patient from the back because he was getting a very good length and it is hard to score winners from that deep off the court but he managed to win," he said.

Royals finish home leg on a high

HIL – MEN

Sports Bureau
RANCHI

Ranchi Royals registered its third win on the bounce, prevailing 4-1 against JSW Soorma Hockey Club in its final home game of the Men's Hockey India League 2026 season at the Marang Gomke Jagpal Singh Astro Turf Hockey Stadium on Friday.

The victory took Royals to third in the table.

The results: Ranchi Royals 4 (Manmeet 14, Boon 20, 22, Mandeep 47) bt JSW Soorma Hockey Club 1 (Jeetpal 52).

On Thursday: JSW Soorma Hockey Club 3 (Harmanpreet 15, 38, Gurjant 27) bt HIL GC 1 (Russell 44).

CMYK

M BG-BGE

NEW MARK

Shreyanka first in the WPL with three hauls of 4 or more wickets

PTI

RCB's Shreyanka Patil's five for 23 made her the first player in the WPL to claim three four-plus wicket hauls. MI's Amelia Kerr, with two, is the only other player with multiple hauls. Shreyanka is the second bowler this season to register a five-wicket haul after Nandani Sharma (5/33, DC vs. GG).

FOR KIWI CHALLENGE

Bishnoi replaces Washington; Shreyas added for three T20Is

FILE PHOTOS: EMMANUAL YOGINI & PTI

Injured all-rounder Washington Sundar has been ruled out of India's five-match T20I series against New Zealand. The selection committee has named Ravi Bishnoi as his replacement. Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer has been added to the squad for the first three T20Is as a replacement for the injured Tilak Varma.

IN EARNEST

Black Caps have an extended, high-intensity practice session

R.V. MOORTHY

The Black Caps hit the ground running ahead of the series decider against India with an extended, high-intensity practice session at the Holkar Stadium in Indore on Friday. Michael Bracewell led from the front as the core group trained with focus and confidence. A few players, including the in-form Daryl Mitchell, opted to rest.

LATEST ACHIEVER

Aaryan Varshney becomes India's 92nd Grandmaster

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Aaryan Varshney on Thursday became India's 92nd and latest Grandmaster. The 21-year-old from Delhi secured his third and final Grandmaster norm while winning the Andranik Margaryan Memorial title in Armenia with a round to spare. A.R. Ilamparthi and V.S. Raahul had become India's 90th and 91st GMs in late 2025.

Radha, Richa, Shreyanka star as RCB maintains perfect run

The two batters put on 105 off 66 balls for the fifth wicket after Giants reduce the Bengaluru outfit to 43 for four inside the PowerPlay; the off-spinner claims five while pacer Bell chips in with a three-wicket haul for the winning side

WPL-4

Shayan Acharya
NAVI MUMBAI

It's not for nothing that Radha Yadav and Richa Ghosh are rated so highly, especially in the shortest format of the game.

On Friday, the two experienced players once again stamped their class as they brought Royal Challengers Bengaluru out of the woods with a 105-run partnership for the fifth wicket and paved the way for the team's 32-run win against Gujarat Giants in a Women's Premier League fixture at the D.Y. Patil Stadium.

Radha (66, 47b, 6x4, 3x6) and Richa (44, 28b, 4x4, 2x6) made optimum use of the reprieves and guided RCB to 182 for seven after it was reeling at 43 for four inside the PowerPlay.

Chasing a big total, Sophie Devine and Beth Mooney provided Giants a steady start before Shreyanka Patil's five-wicket haul turned things around for RCB.

Bharti Fulmali made the most of two reprieves and delayed the inevitable with a 20-ball 39 before falling to Lauren Bell. And with that Giants' hopes were dashed.

This was RCB's third straight win while Giants slumped to their second loss in four outings.

The decision to bowl paid off initially for Giants as pacers Kashvee Gautam, Renuka Singh and Devine struck early to rattle RCB. Though Grace Harris started aggressively, with four fours off Renuka in the very first over, she was trapped leg-before by Kashvee.

The youngster followed it up with the wicket of D. Hemalatha in her next over. Hemalatha decided to hook one towards short fine-leg, but it did not come off as the ball got stuck in debutant Shivani Singh's palm.

In no time, the Bengaluru outfit lost two more wickets in captain Smriti Mandhana and the young Gautami Naik. It ended up scoring just 45 runs in the PowerPlay. However, Richa and Radha came to the rescue. As Giants dropped quite a few catches, Radha accelerated, en route her maiden fifty in the tournament, while Richa held fort, before hitting a couple of sixes.

Though Richa fell six runs short of a fifty, her innings proved crucial. Nadine de Klerk kept the momentum going with a 12-ball-26 as RCB went past the 180-run mark.

Holding the innings together: Radha top-scored with a 47-ball 66. X@WPLT20

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Grace Harris lbw b Kashvee 17 *(8b, 4x4)*, Smriti Mandhana c Rajeshwari b Renuka 5 *(8b)*, D. Hemalatha c Shivani b Kashvee 4 *(8b)*, Gautami Naik lbw b Devine 9 *(6b, 2x4)*, Radha Yadav c Wareham b Devine 66 *(47b, 6x4, 3x6)*, Richa Ghosh c Gardner b Wareham 44 *(28b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Nadine de Klerk c Rajeshwari b Devine 26 *(12b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Arundhati Reddy (not out) 2 *(2b)*, Shreyanka Patil (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (b-1, w-8): 9; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 182.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-26 (Harris, 1.4 overs), 2-33 (Hemalatha, 3.4), 3-39 (Smriti, 4.3), 4-43 (Gautami, 5.3), 5-148 (Richa, 16.3), 6-179 (de Klerk, 19.2), 7-180 (Radha, 19.4).

GIANTS BOWLING
Renuka 4-0-41-1, Kashvee 4-0-42-2, Gardner 4-0-32-0, Devine 4-0-31-3, Wareham 4-0-35-1.

GUJARAT GIANTS
Beth Mooney lbw b Shreyanka 27 *(14b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Sophie Devine c & b Arundhati 8 *(12b, 1x4)*, Kanika Ahuja lbw b Shreyanka 16 *(14b, 2x4)*, Ashleigh Gardner c Richa b Bell 3 *(6b)*, Georgia Wareham c Radha b de Klerk 13 *(13b, 1x4)*, Bharti Fulmali c Harris b Bell 39 *(20b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Kashvee Gautam c Harris b Shreyanka 18 *(14b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Tanuja Kanwar c Smriti b Shreyanka 21 *(13b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Shivani Singh c Arundhati b Bell 0 *(2b)*, Rajeshwari Gayakwad (not out) 0 *(2b)*, Renuka Singh c Arundhati b Shreyanka 2 *(3b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (in 18.5 overs): 150.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-34 (Devine, 3.4), 2-38 (Mooney, 4.6), 3-46 (Gardner, 6.5), 4-63 (Kanika, 8.5), 5-70 (Wareham, 10.4), 6-126 (Kashvee, 15.2), 7-139 (Bharti, 16.3), 8-139 (Shivani, 16.5), 9-148 (Tanuja, 18.2).

RCB BOWLING
Bell 4-0-29-3, Smith 2-0-27-0, Arundhati 4-0-31-1, Shreyanka 3.5-0-23-5, de Klerk 3-0-30-1, Radha 2-0-9-0.

Toss: Giants; **PoM:** Radha.
RCB won by 32 runs.

Retired out to returning not out — the Harleen story

Shayan Acharya
NAVI MUMBAI

Harleen Deol couldn't believe her eyes when she was instructed by the team management to retire out and return to the dugout. By then, she was just three runs short of her fifty, and the decision clearly came as a shock.

UP Warriorz' bold move backfired as the middle-order fumbled and eventually paved the way for Delhi Capitals' victory.

But as they say, cricket is a great leveller. Less than 24 hours later, Harleen redeemed herself with an unbeaten 39-ball 64 to guide Warriorz to their first win of the WPL season, against Mumbai Indians.

It wasn't easy for her to forget what happened and turn up afresh. But then, this is what professional sport is all about, it teaches one not to not stress on what happened in the past, and just keep contributing.

Harleen, too, believes in such a mindset. No wonder, she dead-batted questions on the 'retired out' episode, and just stressed on the fact that she 'batted well' on both days.

Indeed so. Though her strike rate was relatively low (130.55) against Capitals, she had set the tone for Warriorz along with Meg Lanning, and on Thursday, she did even better. With some crisp drives, she improved her strike rate (164.10).

Though Harleen's expressions spoke otherwise as she walked back after being retired out, Warriorz head coach Abhishek Nayar claimed that the former was aware of the decision.

Silencing the critics: Harleen smashed an unbeaten 39-ball 64 to guide Warriorz to their first win. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Today's matches

UP Warriorz vs. Mumbai Indians
Navi Mumbai, 3 p.m
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 8
UPW 3 | MI 5

Delhi Capitals vs. RCB
Navi Mumbai, 7.30 p.m
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 7
DC 5 | RCB 2

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Abhishek clarifies

"It wasn't a spontaneous decision. The conversation started around the 12th over when we first sent a message to Meg, while they were batting together and we felt what was the right time to get our power-hitters in," Abhishek said.

"Afterthe time-out, Meg decided to have a go, and Harleen as well. We had already communicated to Harleen that if we don't get going till the 16th or 17th over, we will look for a change. So, that communication had started way before".

Harleen, as Abhishek said, put the team first, took things in her stride and moved on. Only to turn up the next day and silence her critics.

The scores:
Mumbai Indians 161/5 in 20 overs (Amanjot Kaur 38, Nat Sciver-Brunt 65, Nicola Carey 32 n.o.) lost to UP Warriorz 162/3 in 18.1 overs (Harleen Deol 64 n.o.).
Toss: UPW; **PoM:** Harleen.

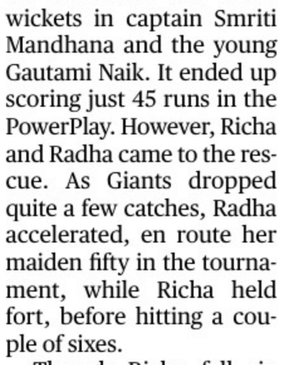
Mitchell enjoys the fruits of meticulous preparation

Tarun Shastry
INDORE

What connects South Island, Lincoln, Christchurch with the numbers 84 and 131 not out? The answer lies in Daryl Mitchell. His preparation, carried out quietly on specially curated surfaces at the Lincoln marquee facility, has been central to New Zealand's performance in the ongoing ODI series against India.

Those pitches, designed to replicate subcontinental conditions, have allowed Mitchell to rehearse the demands of batting in Asia – patience, precise shot selection and strike rotation. The results are evident.

The 34-year-old has become his team's most dependable batter in these conditions, amassing 1,457 ODI runs in the subcontinent at an average of 56.03. In India alone, he averages 66.75, with 801 runs from just 14 innings. In fact, Mitchell has three centuries in his last four ODI innings against the Men in Blue in India – 130, 134, 84 and 131 not out – a remarkable run stretching back to the 2023 World Cup.



Mitchell has been the standout Kiwi batter. VIJAY SONEJI

In this series, in the first game in Vadodara, his composed 84 went in vain. In the second, in Rajkot, Mitchell arrived at the crease with the Kiwis under pressure at 46 for two chasing a target of 285. He assessed the conditions immediately. The straight drive off Nitish Kumar early in his innings was a clear statement of intent. Against spin, his clarity was even more striking, as Mitchell took the initiative against Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav, forcing them to alter their lengths constantly.

He imposed himself at the earliest opportunity. He also employed the lap-scoop, further disrupting India's plans.

The sweep became his go-to weapon – the reverse against Kuldeep and the conventional against Jadeja – preventing both from settling into predictable patterns. The singles and doubles were just as damaging.

By disrupting rhythm rather than dominating with brute power, Mitchell broke the shackles. His knock in Rajkot not only ended his side's eight-match losing streak to the home team in India but also levelled the series 1-1.

With the decider in Indore on Sunday, the Black Caps will again look up to Mitchell as they chase a first-ever bilateral series win in India.

Vishvaraj's blitzkrieg leaves Punjab in a daze

HAZARE TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Vishvaraj Jadeja starred with his third century of the campaign (165 n.o., 127b, 18x4, 3x6) as Saurashtra hammered Punjab by nine wickets to enter the 2025-26 Vijay Hazare Trophy final, at BCCI Centre of Excellence, here on Friday.

Meets Vidarbha

In Sunday's title-decider, Saurashtra will meet Vidarbha, which outplayed Karnataka by six wickets in Thursday's first semifinal.

Saurashtra made quick work of the 292-run target. Vishvaraj first combined for 172 glorious runs with captain and fellow opener Harvik Desai (64, 63b, 9x4) and then for 121 runs with Prerak Mankad (52 n.o., 49b, 7x4).

In a competition where high scores have been the norm, the sub-300 total Punjab put up was never going to be enough. And it proved so as Saurashtra galloped home with more than 10 overs to spare.

Vishvaraj largely scored square of the wicket, both in front and behind, with his punches and clips standing out.

There were very few runs in the 'V', and all three of his sixes came in the arc between fine-leg and mid-wicket, as the 27-year-old displayed impeccable control.

He was dropped on 120 at square-leg but by then the contest was all but over.

Anmolpreet shines

Earlier, after being asked to bat, Punjab's top-order fired but hopes of a big score were extinguished by a middle-order failure and lower-order implosion.

The opening wicket association contributed 60 runs and the second wicket 109 as skipper Prabhsimran Singh (87, 89b, 9x4, 3x6) and Anmolpreet Singh (100, 105b, 9x4, 1x6) played top-quality knocks.

Prabhsimran was dropped early on by Prerak at point, and the 25-year-old capitalised to register his fifth half-century this edition. His nonchalant maximums, after walking down the track were especially eye-catching.

For Anmolpreet, it was his second century, to go with four fifties earlier in the tournament.

Sakariya strikes

But from 169 for one, Punjab was reduced to 200 for four, and from 275 for four, it was bowled out for 291.

Chetan Sakariya (four for 60) excised Anmolpreet in the 47th over, and then sent back batters No. 8, 9 and 10 to take the sting out of Punjab's tail.

Three hours later, that effort got the reward it deserved.

The scores (semifinals):
Punjab 291 in 50 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 87, Anmolpreet Singh 100, Ramandeep Singh 42, Chetan Sakariya 4/60) lost to Saurashtra 293/1 in 39.3 overs (Harvik Desai 64, Vishvaraj Jadeja 165 n.o., Prerak Mankad 52 n.o.); **Toss:** Saurashtra.

On Thursday: Karnataka 280 in 49.4 overs (Karun Nair 76, K.L. Shrijith 54, Darshan Nalkande 5/48) lost to Vidarbha 284/4 in 46.2 overs (Aman Mokhade 138, Dhruv Shorey 47, R. Samarth 76 n.o.).

Toss: Karnataka.

Gigantic effort: Vishvaraj's unbeaten 165 powered Saurashtra home with plenty to spare. K. MURALI KUMAR

INBRIEF

Federer practises with Ruud ahead of exhibition match

Roger Federer returned to Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne on Friday for the first time since 2020 for a practice session with Casper Ruud whom he had played only once. Federer, who announced his retirement from professional tennis in 2022, will play an exhibition match during the opening ceremony of the Australian Open 2026.

Yuki-Goransson pair loses in semifinals of ASB Classic

Top seeds Yuki Bhambri and Andre Goransson crashed out in the semifinals of the ASB Classic in Auckland on Friday. The Indo-Swedish pair lost to Austria's Alexander Elder and Robert Galloway of USA 4-6, 6-4, [8-10] in just over 81 minutes.

Stride notches up narrow win in BDFA 'A' division league

Stride FC edged out Technico FF 1-0 in the BDFA 'A' division football league held here on Friday.

The results: A division: Stride FC bt Technico FF 1-0; BTM FC bt AGORC FC 2-0.
B division: Shooterz FC bt Bangalore Gunners FC 3-1.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: India Open, Eurosport, 10 a.m.
Men's U-19 World Cup: Bangladesh vs India, SS Select 2 & JioHotstar, 1 p.m.
WPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3 & 7.30 p.m.
HIL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Serie A: DAZN, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.

Henil sets up India's victory over USA

The seamer's five-wicket haul helps bundle out the rival for a meagre total before the batters do their bit in a rain-affected match

U-19 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
BULAWAYO

Henil Patel's excellent five-wicket haul set up India's six-wicket victory over USA in their rain-hit ICC Under-19 World Cup opener here on Thursday.

The right-arm seamer ripped through the USA middle-order after India opted to bowl under overcast conditions.

The USA was bundled out for a meagre 107 in 35.2 overs. India's target was revised to 96 in 37 overs after rain interrupted proceedings with the total reading 21 for one in four overs.

Abhigyan Kundu (42 not out off 41 balls) then saw the team home with 118 balls to spare under the DLS method.

India's chase was delayed by rain but when play resumed, 14-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi (two) was bowled by Ritvik Appidi in the third over.

Starring role: Henil is congratulated by teammates after his excellent bowling. X@ICC

Skipper Ayush Mhatre had by then collected two boundaries and looked confident until rain forced another interruption.

At that stage, India required just 87 in 46 overs, but the equation changed as per the DLS method when play resumed.

Upon resumption, India lost Mhatre (19) and Vedant Trivedi (two) in quick succession, and then, vice-captain Vihaan Malhotra was dismissed for 18.

India will begin as firm favourite when it faces Bangladesh in a Group-B fixture here on Saturday.

The scores:
USA 107 in 35.2 overs (Nitish Sudini 36; Henil Patel 5/16) lost to India 99/4 in 17.2 overs (Abhigyan Kundu 42 n.o.; Ritvik Appidi 2/24) by DLS method.

Sinner-Djokovic and Gauff-Venus on collision course Down Under

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agencies
MELBOURNE

Jannik Sinner was drawn against France's Hugo Gaston to start his Australian Open defence and is on a collision course to meet 10-time champion Novak Djokovic in a blockbuster semifinal. World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz opens against home hope Adam Walton.

In the women's draw, defending champion Madison Keys will take on Ukraine's Oleksandra Oliynykova while World No. 1 Aryana Sabalenka kicks off against French wildcard Tiantsoa Rakotomanga Rajaonah.

Sabalenka and World No. 3 Coco Gauff are on the same side of the draw and will meet in the semifinals if they make it that far.

Djokovic is aiming for his 25th Major crown, which would break his tie with Margaret Court for most Grand Slam singles titles. The Serbian starts his campaign against Pedro Martinez.

Coco Gauff and Venus Williams could meet in the second round, another potential chapter in a tennis

Ready to rumble: Djokovic will begin his quest for a 25th Grand Slam title against Pedro Martinez. REUTERS

Key first-round matches

Men: 6-de Minaur vs. Berrettini; 8-Shelton vs. Humbert; Dimitrov vs. Machac; 5-Musetti vs. Collignon; Wawrinka vs. Djere

Women: Vekic vs. 8-Andreeva; Krejcikova vs. 23-Shnaider; Valentova vs. 30-Joint; Boulter vs 10-Bencic; 17-Mboko vs. Jones

tale that started with a 15-year-old on her Grand Slam debut beating a seven-time major winner at Wimbledon.

The 45-year-old Venus has a wild-card entry for the Australian Open, where she's playing for the first time in five years.

Gauff was drawn to open against No. 91-ranked Kamilla Rakhimova and the 576th-ranked Venus who made her Australian Open debut in 1998 and has twice reached the final was drawn to face No. 68-ranked Olga Danilovic in the first round.

The oldest

Venus is set to become the oldest woman to compete in the Australian Open main draw, surpassing the record held by Japan's Kimiko Date, who was 44 when she played in 2015.

Sabalenka, who opened her season with a title in Brisbane last week, has a potential third round against 2021 US Open winner Emma Raducanu.

T20 World Cup impasse: ICC officials to visit Bangladesh today

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

A two-member team of the ICC will land in Dhaka on Saturday to resolve the deadlock surrounding Bangladesh's participation in next month's T20 World Cup in India, hoping to allay its security concerns, having already indicated that a change of venue is impractical.

Bangladesh has been asking the global governing body to relocate its World Cup matches, scheduled to be held in Kolkata and Mumbai, on the pretext of a perceived security threat to its players.

"Yes, that's the information (ICC officials' visit to Dhaka) at the moment. Discussions are going on, and all possible ways to handle the situation will be discussed. We expect Bangladesh government officials to also take part in the talks," a source said.

He said the BCB has already conveyed to the ICC its apprehensions during a recent video conference, particularly with regard to playing in Mumbai.

The BCB source indicated that the possibility of moving the matches to a different Indian city, possibly to the southern parts, or to Sri Lanka, will be pondered over in the parley, which might take place at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Dhaka. However, it's learnt that the ICC was firm in its view that such hypothetical scenarios could not be viewed as a strong reason to shift the venues of matches.

Smaran to miss Karnataka's Ranji game against MP

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

An injured R. Smaran will miss Karnataka's Ranji Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh, which commences at the Alur (1) ground here on January 22.

Batter Smaran had missed Karnataka's Vijay Hazare Trophy semifinal here on Thursday due to a shoulder injury.

Setback

Smaran's absence is a blow, given that the left-hander has been in fine form.

Before the Ranji Trophy came to a break, Smaran had notched up 595 runs at an average of 119.

Batter K.L. Rahul is not in the squad, despite his India ODI duties against New Zealand finishing on January 18. Rahul is not a part of the T20I squad which will take on the Kiwis after the ODIs. Karnataka sits on top of Elite Group 'B' with 21 points.

Meanwhile, Aneeshwar Gautam will lead the State side against Chandigarh in the Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy under-23 match which commences at the Alur (3) ground on January 23.

The squads: Ranji Trophy: Mayank Agarwal (Capt.), Nikin Jose, Devdutt Padikkal, Karun Nair, K.L. Shrijith, Abhinav Manohar, Shreyas Gopal, Vidyadhar Patil, Vidwath Kaverappa, Abhilash Shetty, Mohsin Khan, Shikhar Shetty, Kruthik Krishna, K.V. Aneesh, M. Venkatesh.

Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy: Aneeshwar Gautam (Capt.), Prakhar Chaturvedi, S.U. Karthik, Harshil Dharmani, K.P. Karthikeya, Dhruv Prabhakar, Samit Dravid, Sanjay Ashwin, Yashovardhan Parantap, Manvanth Kumar, Hardik Raj, K. Shashikumar, Dhanush Gowda, Monish Reddy, Faizan Khan.

RCB proposes AI-enabled cameras for crowd safety

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to improve crowd safety, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) has proposed the installation of 300 to 350 AI-enabled cameras at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here.

In a formal communication to the KSCA, RCB has noted that the surveillance technology will empower the KSCA and law enforcement agencies to manage crowd movement, ensure disciplined queueing, monitor unauthorised access through real-time tracking of entries and exits, and enhance overall fan safety.

RCB has committed to bearing the entire one-time cost of this initiative, estimated at approximately ₹4.5 crore.

RCB has partnered with Staqu, a technology company for this initiative.

The proposal comes after the deadly stampede that occurred outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium during RCB's IPL title celebrations in June last year.

Rabiot's brace powers AC Milan past a high-flying Como

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
COMO

Adrien Rabiot made sure that AC Milan stayed three points behind Serie A leader Inter Milan with a brilliant brace in Thursday's 3-1 win at high-flying Como.

France midfielder Rabiot lashed home two great strikes in the 55th minute and moments from the end to sink lakeside outfit Como after also winning the penalty from which fellow "Bleu" Christopher Nkunku levelled the scores, against the run of play and on the stroke of half-time.

Massimiliano Allegri's team is on 40 points, three away from Inter but also the same amount ahead of champion Napoli which was held by Parma.

Two-goal hero: Rabiot fires in Milan's second against Como. REUTERS

The results: Bundesliga: Augsburg 1 (Claude-Maurice 45+6) drew with Union Berlin 1 (Ljubicic 90+1); Cologne 1 (Maina 41) lost to Bayern Munich 3 (Gnabry 45+5, Kim 71, Karl 84); RB Leipzig 2 (Orban 53, Romulo 56) bt Freiburg 0; Hoffenheim 5 (Kramaric 22-pen, 45+1, 45+4, Temperle 24, Moerstedt 77) bt Borussia M'Gladbach 1 (Machino 69); Wolfsburg 2 (Eriksen 25-pen, Pejcinovic 88) bt St. Pauli 1 (Smith 40).
Serie A: Como 1 (Kempf 10) lost to AC Milan 3 (Nkunku 45+1-pen, Rabiot 55, 88); Verona 2 (Orban 13, Freuler 71-og) lost to Bologna 3 (Orsolini 21, Odgaard 29, Castro 44); Inter Milan 1 (Esposito 78) bt Lecce 0; Napoli 0 drew with Parma 0.

FC Goa players take pay cut

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

FC Goa players, including India captain Sandesh Jhingan, and support staff have accepted a pay cut for the truncated Indian Super League (ISL) season beginning February 14, the club said, terming their decision a "selfless" act.

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